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Transplant of sexual organs forbidden by theologians

JEDDAH, March 21. (AP) Islamic theologians ruled at the end of an annual conference today that transplant of human sexual organs is forbidden by the Muslim faith.

The theologians, members of the Islamic Iqbal (jurisprudence) academy, an affiliate of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, said other parts of the genitals which do not carry hereditary genes can be transplanted.

"The testicles and ovaries will remain to carry hereditary characteristics even after they are transplanted to the recipient so it is not allowed to transplant them," said the scholars at the end of their weeklong conference.

The conference represents all the OIC member states, including Iran which is predominantly Shiite.

The scholars meet every year to give their

rulings on contemporary issues of concern to Muslims. Their rulings are not binding on member states but governments of the OIC can act on their basis. Each country may also have its own body of theologians.

Among their injunctions at this conference, the scholars said it was forbidden to inseminate a fertilised ovum in any other woman except the wife of the man from whom the sperms are taken. "No

illegitimate pregnancies are allowed," said the ruling.

This is a ruling that has already been enacted in most Islamic countries where test-tube babies hospitals have opened, and where it is strictly forbidden to mix the sperm and egg of anyone other than husband and wife.

The Jeddah gathering also said excessive fertilised eggs should be left without

any medical care in order to die naturally.

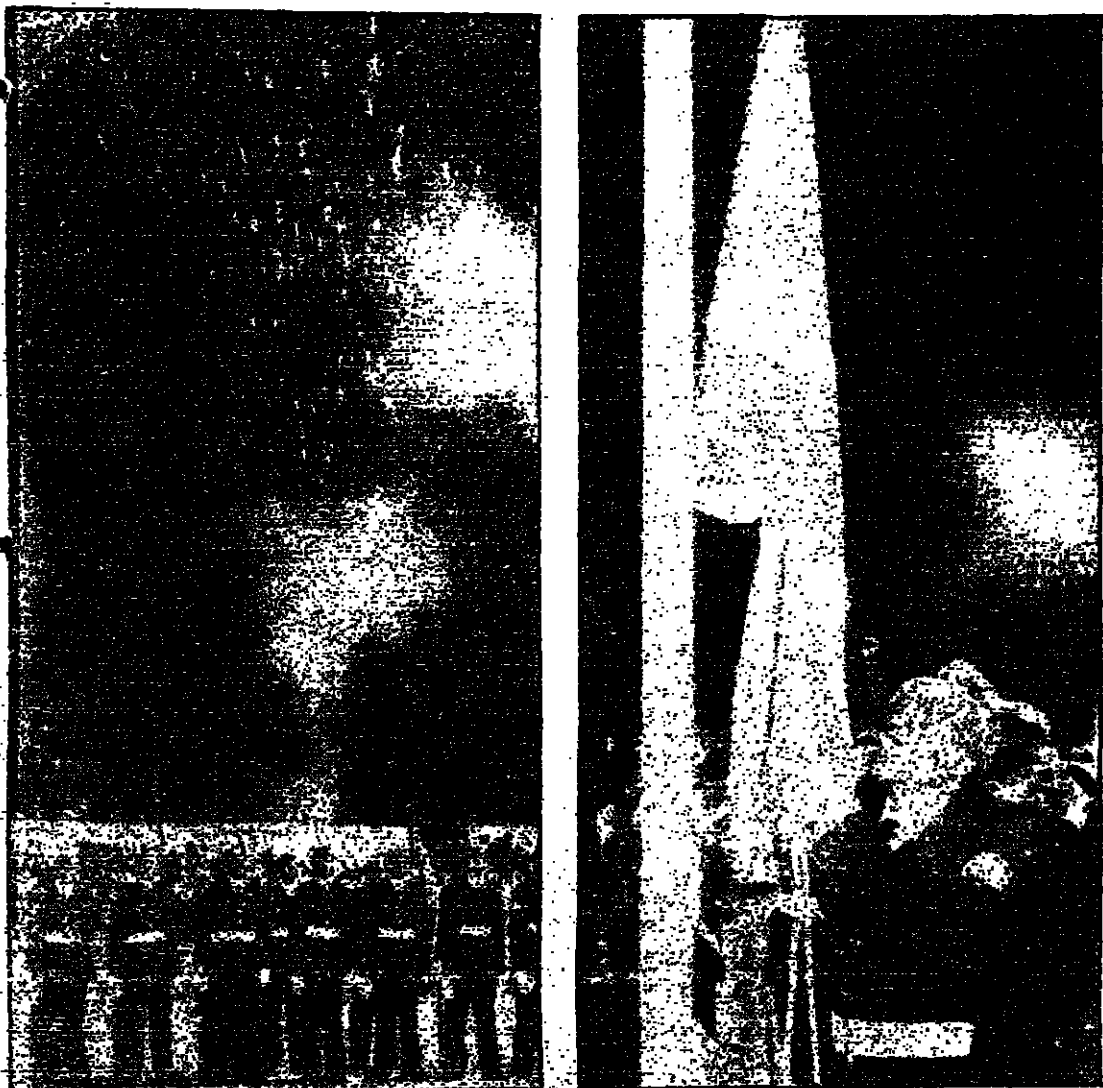
Hospitals in the oil-rich region are advanced in transplanting organs such as hearts and kidneys, including cases of accidents where limbs have been severed.

This conference made no mention of non-sexual organs. But it specifically ruled against rejoining of human limbs amputated according to the Islamic sharia or law, for robbery or other crimes. Under sharia, a

convicted thief will have his arm cut from the wrist for the first crime and from the elbow for the second offense for which he is convicted.

The theologians, in their lengthy statement, took in political issues led by the influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants into Israel. They denounced this emigration and urged the Islamic nation to stand firm against it.

Namibians rejoice to a new dawn



A Namibian guard of honour stands on the pitch inside Windhoek stadium as fireworks mark the birth of world's newest nation. At right Namibian soldier hoists the flag of Namibia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nujoma sworn in as President amid applause

WINDHOEK, March 21. (Agencies): Tens of thousands of Namibians took to the streets in a riot of pomp, colour and pagantry today to celebrate their nation's independence after 75 years of South African rule.

Tribal dancers, warriors on horseback, brass bands, drum majorettes and carnival floats choked the centre of the Namibian capital in a five-km (three-mile) procession from the black township of Katutura to Independence Stadium in the

There was no immediate explanation for his absence.

The swearing-in ceremony marked the formal handover of governmental power from South Africa, presented at the celebrations by President F.W. de Klerk, to the independent government which is dominated by Swapo.

The jubilant mood prevailed along the length of the route, which forged a link between two areas of the town until recently formally segregated under South Africa's apartheid race policies.

Amir's message

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed met today with Nujoma and delivered to him a message from HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

Sheikh Sabah also conveyed to President Nujoma greetings of HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the Kuwaiti government on the occasion of Namibia's independence.

"Africa's last colony is from this hour liberated," President Nujoma said in his inaugural address.

"We love our independent country," read one poster in the march, which was expected to take nearly six hours to pass through the normally sleepy town.

Just 400 metres (yards) from the march route, at the Tintenpalast (ink palace) seat of government since the days of Imperial German colonial rule, Nujoma's cabinet were sworn in to take formal control from Pretoria's governor.

The cabinet, which includes representatives of Namibia's opposition parties, reaffirmed their oaths in front of a huge independence rally later today.

Independence and Swapo's assumption of power marks the culmination of the movement's long and bitter campaign against South African rule.

After a 23-year guerrilla war which claimed thousands of lives, democracy flowered last November when Swapo won a decisive victory in UN-supervised elections.

Namibia finally won its independence early today.

It was supposed to be freedom at midnight, but 18 minutes elapsed before the impatient crowd saw the South African tricolour flag lowered for the last time.

"Down, down, down," they shouted as two white South African army corporals in battle dress began hauling the rope to the sound of the South African national anthem.

A few seconds later, up went the flag of the new Namibia, raised by a black sergeant from the 500-strong national army.

Many in the crowd wept openly and others punched their fists in the air in a black power salute.

"Turkey today recognised the new state of Namibia, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

"Turkey is pleased to recognise the Namibian state and has decided to establish diplomatic relations," spokesman Murat Sancar said.

The 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference today hailed the independence of Namibia and pledged complete solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle against apartheid.



Sam Nujoma (left) swears the oath of office as he is sworn in as Namibia's first president. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar administers the oath of office. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jurors know of her shoes only

Imelda cronies protest

MANILA, March 21. (AP): About 500 supporters of the late Ferdinand Marcos spat on and burned an American flag in front of the US embassy today to protest his widow Imelda's trial in the United States.

The 60-year-old former first lady went on trial yesterday in a US district court in New York City on racketeering charges. She could be imprisoned for 50 years and fined \$1 million if convicted of all charges.

Marcos supporters carried placards demanding "Justice for Imelda" and "We love the Marcos family" during the generally peaceful protest.

Police stood guard in front of the seaside embassy compound but did not interfere.

"We are here in support of our first lady," speaker Luz Domingo told the crowd. "We are here to protest American intervention and the injustice done to her."

Another speaker, attorney Romeo Cayetano, said the trial of a former first lady on foreign soil was an affront to Philippine sovereignty and showed the Manila government "has no honour."

Manila newspapers today published the text of a letter sent by Imelda to President George Bush offering to turn over her fortune to a five-member international panel, which would distribute the funds to the Filipino people.



About 500 loyalist supporters of Marcos burned the effigy of Uncle Sam and the United States flag outside the US embassy in Manila yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

In New York, prospective jurors in the fraud trial of Imelda they did not know very much about the former Philippine first lady — except that she owned more than 1,000 pairs of shoes.

"I heard about the shoes, she bought a lot of shoes, and that's about it," said David Gong, a 26-year-old graduate student who was among 10 people who passed the first test yesterday as jury selection began in US district court.

Meanwhile, the Philippine military filed rebellion charges yesterday against seven opposi-

tion politicians and businessmen in connection with the December coup attempt against President Corason Aquino.

Vicente Puyat, a banker and a defeated senatorial candidate of the opposition in the May 1987 elections, was accused before a suburban criminal court of harbouring Maj. Wilhelm Doromal, one of the coup leaders, in his poultry farm. Doromal was arrested Thursday.

A separate recommendation to the Justice Department also was made to prosecute Puyat for "illegal possession of firearms in furtherance of rebellion."

NEWSWATCH

Payments stopped

BONN, March 21. (Reuters): Libya has stopped payments for West German imports but does not appear to be seeking an economic row with Bonn, an economics Ministry spokesman said today.

Hijacker flees

AMSTERDAM, March 21. (Reuters): An armed man yesterday forced an Amsterdam bus driver and eight passengers to take a wild 10-minute ride and then fled without his shoes, police said.

100 treated

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 21. (Reuters): More than 100 Palestinians were treated for tear-gas inhalation and minor wounds after a clash with Israeli soldiers today, a hospital in the occupied West Bank said.

Cloche dies

PARIS, March 21. (AP): French film director Maurice Cloche, best known for his Oscar-winning movie, "Monsieur Vincent," has died at his home in Bordeaux after a long illness, the French press reported today. He was 82.

Missiles sale

PARIS, March 21. (Kuna): China is still looking for ways to sell its solid fuel ballistic missiles to Middle Eastern countries, despite promises Beijing gave to Washington on halting such sales, it was reported here today.

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be slightly below normal, with light variable changing to light to moderate south easterly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 10.00 am, 7.00 pm

Low water: 3.00 am, 1.00 pm

Source: 5.30 am

Sunset: 6.01 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 24°C/75°F

Ahmad: 24°C/75°F

Falaka: 22°C/72°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 7°C/45°F

Ahmad: 12°C/55°F

Falaka: 11°C/52°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 25°C/77°F

Ahmad: 21°C/70°F

Falaka: 23°C/73°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 36 per cent

Ahmad: 56 per cent

Falaka: 44 per cent

US is accused of double standards

LONDON, March 21. (Kuna): Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has said that the intifada "will continue until the end of the Israeli occupation, until we are able to raise our flag on occupied Jerusalem."

In an interview with the specialised magazine Jane's Defence Weekly published here today, Arafat accused the US of double standards.

In his remarks at the PLO headquarters in Tunis, the Palestinian leader said "Washington hails human rights in Prague and Berlin, while maintaining silence on Palestine."

He was quick to say that "the PLO is in full control of all developments inside the Palestinian occupied territories," but admitted "there are pressures being exerted on the Palestinian leadership."

He talked of "pressure for the use of arms against the occupation forces and against the armed settlers to defend ourselves, but we have given clear instructions to our people not to use weapons in the intifada."

Despite such expression of frustration, JDW said he is prepared to give the peace process a chance and refuses to condemn USSecretary of State,

James Baker's peace plan

Arafat pointed out that although Baker "wants to solve the Palestinian issue, but it seems he wants also to implement Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan."

In Vienna, in an implicit invitation to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, a high ranking Romanian politician said that the new leadership of Romania would welcome a visit by the Palestinian leader to Bucharest.

Members of the new leadership in Romania envisage no obstacle for a visit by President Arafat, said professor Selveu Brucan, board member of the National Salvation Front and adviser to President Ion Iliescu.

In occupied Jerusalem, Israel and Sweden have clashed over stalled Middle East peace efforts in a row focusing on the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens told his Swedish counterpart Sten Andersson on Monday that Israel was disappointed by what he called Sweden's one-sided position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Foreign Ministry officials said yesterday.



Unfortunate

A man who was repairing his Mercedes was crushed underneath the vehicle in a bizarre accident yesterday. Eyewitnesses said the Mercedes was perched on bricks which collapsed when car moved during repairs. The accident occurred in the Nagra suburb.

Benazir to seek mandate afresh

ISLAMABAD, March 21. (Agencies): Premier Benazir Bhutto is expected to seek a fresh vote of confidence from the National Assembly, the Lower House of the Pakistan Parliament, when it commences its spring session tomorrow.

Informed sources said though the agenda of the session did not carry such a move, she would surprise the assembly by calling upon it to give her a vote of confidence once again.

These sources said that Premier Benazir was fully confident that she would be able to show comfortable majority to her opponents, especially the combined opposition parties (COP) led by Karachi politician Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, and thus set at rest persistent demands for obtaining such a vote.

President Ishaq Khan has rejected this demand saying he was not bound to do so and that if anyone was in

Pakistan Day
Inside today's issue a 12-page (9-20) supplement on Pakistan.

doubt he could seek verdict of the Supreme Court. Lahore High Court has last week on a private petition given the verdict that such a vote was not required.

However, the COP has threatened that it would file a petition in the Supreme Court to seek a verdict on the vital question in case the president failed to convene an assembly session exclusively for this purpose.

Benazir last night accused India of fuelling problems in Indian Kashmir by trying to stamp out a Muslim revolt through force of arms.

"From every martyr a new freedom fighter will rise," she told hundreds of thousands of cheering supporters at a huge rally in Lahore. She said nobody could stop the movement by Kashmiri Muslims seeking autonomy from India, which has badly damaged relations between Islamabad and New Delhi.

"The more you shoot them the more the cry for freedom will rise," she said.

At her first rally in the opposition heartland of Lahore since taking power in late 1988, Benazir avoided controversial domestic issues. Instead she emphasised national unity, faith and discipline, the watchwords of the Muslim struggle for a separate Pakistan first laid down in the Lahore resolution 50 years ago.

Bridge across Iran-Soviet borders opens

ATHENS, March 21. (UPI): Iran and the Soviet Union today reopened, after 73 years, an old wooden bridge across the Araxes River that forms the border between the two countries in the Azerbaijan region, Tehran radio said.

The bridge at Jolfa, about 400 miles (640 km) northwest of Tehran, was reopened to allow people living in the border areas to travel more freely from one country to the other.

A Tehran radio dispatch monitored in Athens said the bridge, closed since the 1917 Russian revolution, was reopened after an agreement between the two sides.

Azerbaijanis from the Soviet side crossed the bridge to visit friends and relatives in Iran, and were welcomed with flowers by people from Jolfa and nearby Marand, who formed a special committee to receive them.



Deng steps down

China's 85-year-old senior leader Deng Xiaoping formally relinquished his last official post as chairman of the state military commission on Wednesday.

His resignation had been expected since last November when he stepped down from the Communist Party's Central Military Commission, the real controlling force over the 3.5-million strong People's Liberation Army. Picture shows Deng with his daughter. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kabul coup leaders sentenced to death as rebels step up operations

ISLAMABAD, March 21. (Agencies): The pro-Soviet Afghan government has sentenced to death a number of military officers arrested during a massive crackdown against those suspected of involvement in the recent coup attempt, Western diplomat sources said today.

They also reported Afghan rebels have stepped up operations against Kabul government forces in several areas following a winter lull in fighting.

The mujahedeen, who based mostly in Pakistan and backed by the United States and some Middle East nations, have failed to capture any major urban centres despite the Soviet withdrawal last year and are desperately seeking a victory that would boost their contention they are still capable of defeating the Kabul regime.

Five mujahedeen rockets landed on Kabul yesterday, killing one person and injuring eight on the

eve of spring and the Afghan new year, a government spokesman said.

President Najibullah, in a televised new year's message to the nation, appealed to Islamic rebel commanders to work out ceasefire agreements with his government.

He also asked the five million refugees of the 11-year civil war now living in Iran and Pakistan to come home.

The Afghan government on Sunday announced it had expelled 24 members of the central committee of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) for involvement in the revolt. Most were members of Tanai's "Khalaq" faction of the PDPA which has been bitterly opposed to Najibullah's "Parcham" wing.

The diplomatic sources said only three of those named, Tanai, former air force chief Gen. Abdul

Qader, and former central committee secretary Niaz Mohammad, have escaped. They said the others, including former ambassador to Moscow Sayed Mohammad Gulabzoi, were in prison in Kabul.

"Multiple sources say the wave of arrests in Kabul is continuing," one source said. "Khalaq" air force officers, and any officer from Tanai's home town in Pakhtai province are reported to be particular targets.

"Trials of those arrested are already underway, with death sentences already handed down to a number of army and air force officers, including generals."

Senior US and Soviet officials in Helsinki opened two days of talks today on prospects for a solution to the conflict in Afghanistan.



Heroin seized

Iraqi businessman Riadh Mohammed Hassan is stopped at the Manila airport in the Philippines after government agents find packs of heroin, estimated to be worth more than \$100,000, strapped to his waist. Hassan was to have left for Dubai but was detained for questioning. (Reuters wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lee wins six-year term: President Lee Teng-hui won his first six-year term today in a vote by the electoral college that has been the main target of continuing pro-democracy protests. Lee, the only presidential candidate, received support from 641 of the 668 voting members of the electoral college, or national assembly. The others cast invalid ballots. Lee, 67, is chairman of the ruling Nationalist Party. The presidential vote took place at a meeting hall in a rural suburb of Taipei guarded by about 2,000 police in full riot gear. About 300 protesters led by Huang Hwa, the opposition party's unofficial choice for president, marched to the main road to the hall to try to stop elderly assemblymen who have not faced re-election in more than four decades from voting. (AP)

Burma's military elite promote themselves: Members of the ruling military junta in Burma have promoted themselves one rank each, the state press said yesterday. Rangoon-based Western diplomats were unable to provide any explanation for the promotions. Newspapers have since Monday referred to the senior members of the State Law and Order Restoration Council as having one rank higher than in the past, but there has been no official government announcement about the promotions. According to the newspaper accounts, the commander-in-chief of the army, formerly Lt. Gen. Than Swe, became a full general; Rear Admiral Maung Khin an admiral, and Maj. Gen. Tin Tun a lieutenant general. (AP)

Deadline extended for scholarship: The deadline to apply for the Dag Hammarskjöld Memorial Scholarship Fund has been extended until May 31 to enable more Third World journalists to apply, scholarship officers said yesterday. The fund finances three promising Third World journalists to cover the 3-month General Assembly session from September through December. The programme is named in honour of the late secretary-general of the world organisation. Inquiries should be sent to Ms Maria Garcia, Room S-301, United Nations, NY, L0017. Telephone (212) 963-7129, Fax (212) 751-0850. (AP)

Poll violence kills 11 people: Violence in Bangladesh's rural elections, which are widely seen as a test of President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's commitment to stamp out election fraud, has killed at least 11 people and wounded around 1,000 in one week, police and polling officials said today.

Militants get away through false bail

AMRITSAR, India, March 21. (UPI): Authorities are investigating the issuing of fraudulent bail orders that permitted at least a dozen suspected Sikh extremists to escape earlier this month from Amritsar's high-security Central Jail, officials said today. "Proper inquiries into the whole drama are in progress. None of the guilty will be spared," declared Amritsar Deputy Commissioner, Sarbjit Singh, who described the orders as "fake."

Although he and other officials declined to reveal many details of the investigation, it appeared the probe was focused on a low-level judge, J.S. Panna, whose signature appeared on the documents directing authorities to release the prisoners on bail.

The escapes came to light March 15, when T.N. Gupta, a special judge who presides over cases filed under the terrorist and disruptive activities act, ordered police to produce in his Amritsar court Bhupinder Singh, a Canadian national, officials said.

Bhupinder Singh was being held on charges stemming from several murder and extortion cases and is reportedly a close associate of Gurbachan Singh Manochahal, the self-styled lieutenant general of the Khalistan Commando Force, one of the leading Sikh extremist groups fighting for independence for northern Punjab state.

Police relayed to Central Jail Superintendent Rajinder Singh the request to send the defendant to the court. But the jail chief replied that the defendant had been released on bail about 10 days earlier, officials said.

Inquiries were made and it was discovered that not only Bhupinder Singh, but at least 11 other Sikh extremists were freed from the facility under spurious bail orders during the beginning of March, officials said.

"I got the orders from the judiciary to release these extremists on bail. I could not disobey the orders," Rajinder Singh, the jail superintendent, told United Press International.

Lanka hopes to improve Arab ties

COLOMBO, March 21. (Reuters): The closure of an office representing Israeli interests in Sri Lanka will pave the way for better political and economic ties with the Arab world, government politicians and diplomats said today.

Parliamentary Speaker Haniffa Mohamed said the closure would help strengthen contacts with Arab countries. President Ranasinghe Premadasa yesterday ordered the closure of the Israeli office in line with a pledge he made during presidential polls in 1988.

His office said in a statement that Premadasa had asked Foreign Minister

Ranjan Wijeratne to close the Israeli office before April 20.

The Israeli section in Colombo regretted the president's decision which it said was made at a time when many nations were establishing relations with Israel, not the reverse.

Sri Lanka cut diplomatic ties with Israel 20 years ago but in 1984 allowed an office representing Israeli interests to be opened under the auspices of the US embassy.

At that time the government also invited Mossad, the Israeli secret service, to train Sri Lankan security forces in the fight

against Tamil separatist guerrillas.

Premadasa said Colombo would resume diplomatic relations with Israel after it recognised the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the legitimate representative of the Palestine people and withdrew from the occupied territories.

PLO charge d'affaires in Colombo, Omar Abu Rashid praised the decision as bold and courageous, saying it would strengthen political and economic ties between the Arab world and Sri Lanka.

Israel today denounced Sri Lanka for closing an office representing the Jewish

state's interests, saying the move amounted to support for the PLO.

"In supporting the PLO and organisations that continue to use terrorism, Sri Lanka was encouraging violence," a Foreign Ministry official said.

"It is surprising that Sri Lanka, which was affected by terror many times in the past, is supporting such an organisation (as the PLO)," the Israeli official said.

The Foreign Ministry official noted that while Sri Lanka had severed ties, Hungary, Poland and Ethiopia had renewed diplomatic relations with Israel in recent months.

Kashmir troops hunt militants

SRINAGAR, March 21. (AP): Government troops conducted overnight raids in search of Muslim separatists following the assassinations of an intelligence officer and three state government employees, witnesses said today.

The Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front, which has led the Muslim campaign for independence, claimed responsibility for all four killings in telephone calls to local reporters.

An around-the-clock curfew was re-imposed following yesterday's assassinations. Today, paramilitary troops patrolled the deserted streets of Srinagar, the centre of the movement for Kashmir's secession from predominantly Hindu India.

In addition to the intelligence officer, the men killed yesterday were a head constable in the state police force and two civilian government staffers, according to sources who spoke on condition of not being identified further.

The killings occurred when curfew was relaxed during daytime hours yesterday to enable people to buy food and conduct business.

After the curfew was re-imposed, government forces launched a series of overnight raids in an effort to flush out the militants.

Mosques blared calls for people to awaken and take to the streets in an effort to thwart the searches.

China pampers army

Deng quits as military commission chief

BEIJING, March 21. (Agencies): China's financially-strapped government announced today a hefty budget increase for the military but Western analysts said it was less than the army had wanted in return for its role as saviour last year.

Finance Minister Wang Bingqian, presenting the state budget to the annual meeting of the National People's Congress, said 28.97 billion yuan (\$6.1 billion) would be spent on defence in 1990, a 15.2 per cent increase over 1989.

Taking inflation into account it was the People's Liberation Army's biggest rise in years and compared with a meagre 7.9 per cent boost for agriculture — China's first stated priority.

"It's the pay-off for being loyal and true," a Western military analyst said, referring to the army's suppression of democracy demonstration in Beijing last June, the biggest challenge to the Communist Party since the 1949 revolution.

"The increase is expected but it's not as much as they had hoped for. They had hoped for a 25 per cent rise in real terms," the analyst commented.

Defence spending amounts to 8.7 per cent of total planned expenditure in 1990, only a slight increase from an 8.3 per cent slice of the financial pie last year.

Another Western analyst said it was difficult to know just how much the army would receive as the state budget probably represented only about half of its income.

Pursuing capitalist-style economic reforms in the 1980s, the armed forces earned billions of dollars by turning military factories into production lines churning out consumer goods like refrigerators and soft drinks, and investing in hotels.

"It is also essential for the army to engage in production and business operations," said President Yang Shangkun in 1988.

But because of a government austerity programme launched that year and subsequent industrial stagnation, it is likely that the armed forces are earning far less in 1990.

Because of the crackdown and the resulting international outcry, the hotels in which the military invested are now half empty and Western governments have ended military co-operation.

"The army was expecting something for its loyalty but there is little evidence of this since last June," the second analyst added, referring to new military hardware.

Shortly after the budget speech, China's rubber-stamp Parliament formally accepted the resignation of senior leader Deng Xiaoping from his last official post as chairman of the state Military Commission, a largely ceremonial position.

Deng, 85, had been expected to step down since he retired from

role of the Roman army played in topping the leadership in the December revolution, diplomats said.

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army is the strong pillar of the people's democratic dictatorship. Governments at all levels should show concern for and give support to the building and reform of the army," Premier Li Peng said yesterday, praising the army's "heroic role" in crushing last June's protests.

Many senior officers appear to resent the army being dragged back into domestic politics and made an international policing force at the cost of its popular support, diplomats said.



Chinese President Yang Shangkun (centre) party chief Jiang Zemin (right) and NPC chairman Wan Li (left) go into hall for the second day of the National People's Congress session. (Reuters wirephoto)

the Communist Party's Military Commission — the real source of military power in China — last November.

Deng was replaced then by his protégé, party leader Jiang Zemin, who is the only candidate to head the State Commission.

Diplomats and Chinese officials are in no doubt that behind the scenes Deng will remain the most powerful man in China as long as he is capable.

Even if the army, more than three million-strong, gets less money than it wanted, it remains a powerful political force. Diplomats said its importance had been enhanced by the critical

India, China to hold talks on borders

NEW DELHI, March 21. (Reuters): Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is expected to discuss a longstanding Sino-Indian border dispute during talks with leaders of the new Indian government, a foreign office spokesman said today.

Qian arrived in Bombay yesterday for a five-day visit that marks the first high-level contact between China and leaders of the 16-year-old government.

The spokesman said the visit was expected to give an impetus to the two countries' efforts to hold a dialogue on issues of mutual concern.

India and China fought a border war in 1962 which cast a dark shadow over their once-close ties, and both countries still claim large tracts of each other's territory.

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited China in December 1988 and the two countries agreed to set up a joint working group to discuss the border problems.

Qian is scheduled to meet External Affairs Minister Inder Gujral tomorrow and Prime Minister Singh on Friday.

Shortly after the new government took over in December, Chinese Premier Li Peng sent a message to Singh expressing the hope that ties between the two countries would improve further.

Singh reciprocated the sentiment.

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THU	TK 833	0155	0530
FRI	TK 821	0255	0630

ISTANBUL/KUWAIT

DAY	FT NO	DEP	ARR
MON	TK 832	2140	0055
WED	TK 832	2140	0055
THU	TK 820	2240	0155

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HK's poll blueprint unveiled

HONG KONG, March 21. (AP): The government unveiled the blueprint today for next year's first direct election in this British colony, which reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

Eighteen members of the law-making legislative council will be directly elected in 1991 instead of the 10 originally planned because the government decided to increase the pace of the democratic changes.

The 57-member council currently consists of 10 government officials, 20 government-appointed members and members elected by interest groups such as lawyers and other professional bodies.

Under the new scheme, the 60-member legislature next year will embody, in addition to the elected members, 21 interest-group members, 18 appointed members and three government officials.

The newly created post of deputy president will chair the meeting of the council in the absence of the governor.

The blueprint divides Hong Kong into nine geographical constituencies ranging from 70,000-300,000 people.

For the first time, there will be seats in the council for members representing the tourist industry, the financial sector, and construction and real estate groups.

But the number of directly elected seats in 1995 may increase only to 20, the same number that would serve in 1997 under the draft basic law, the constitution under which Beijing will govern the post-colonial Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong government has made it clear that despite its desire for China to agree to faster democratisation, a smooth transition was important for maintaining confidence in the future of the territory.

LANCET

Mandela praises superpowers

WINDHOEK, March 21, (AP): African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela met with the foreign ministers of the United States and Soviet Union today and praised their leaders for easing international tensions.

"One of the things we deeply appreciate are the efforts made by the world powers to relax world tensions," Mandela said before meeting in Namibia with US Secretary of State James Baker.

Leaders from around the world are using the festivities surrounding Namibia's independence from 75 years of South African rule to hold meetings on a host of issues.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Baker have been discussing prospects for a ceasefire in the Angolan civil war, in which the United States and the Soviet Union support opposing sides.

One important meeting today occurred between South African President F.W. de Klerk and Shevardnadze. It was the first time a South African president has met a member of the Kremlin government since the Soviet Union broke off relations 34 years ago over South Africa's system of racial segregation, known as apartheid.

De Klerk said the meeting was promising and constructive; Shevardnadze said it

was useful.

Aides to Shevardnadze said he wanted to visit South Africa, but that the political climate was not yet right.

Mandela has publicly criticised Baker's plan to visit De Klerk in Cape Town later this week, saying it sends an inaccurate message that the South African government has made meaningful changes.

However, Mandela's colleague, Walter Sisulu, the second highest-ranking ANC official inside South Africa, said he had changed plans to fly to London today so that he could meet Baker in South Africa on Friday.

Mandela was to meet Baker at his tem-

porary residence, but at the last minute, phoned and asked the senior US cabinet member to come to him. Baker agreed and Mandela met him in the delivery and apologised for the change.

Mandela had been meeting with Shevardnadze for more than an hour, and the Soviet foreign minister left moments before Baker arrived.

Afterward, Mandela told reporters: "We had very fruitful discussions, and as you would expect, there were differences. But I would like you to concentrate on the friendship that exists between the ANC and the government, the Congress and the people of the United States."

Blacks remember Sharpeville killings

Thousands stay away from work

SHARPEVILLE, South Africa, March 21, (Reuters): Hundreds of thousands of black South Africans stayed away from work today to commemorate the Sharpeville massacre that brought Pretoria's apartheid system to the world's attention 30 years ago.

Anti-apartheid groups reported the strongest response in years to calls to mark the killing in 1960 of 69 blacks by white police and troops in Sharpeville, a drab township south of Johannesburg.

In townships throughout the white-ruled republic, rallies and marches commemorated one of the most emotive dates in the anti-apartheid calendar.

Business organisations said absenteeism was well up on previous years at between 20 and 100 per cent. It was highest in Natal province, the east of Cape Province and in the main Witwatersrand industrial region where Sharpeville is located.

Some employers bowed to the inevitable and gave their black workers an unpaid day off.

On waste ground outside Sharpeville police station, where the shooting took place in 1960, some of the people injured then addressed supporters of the radical Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).

"Today, 30 years after our people were mowed down, nothing has changed ... but victory is certain, though only our grandchildren may see it," Adam Matsose, one of the 300 supporters there, recalled.

He was flanked by elderly men and women on crutches, who were among the 180 people wounded when security forces opened fire on the singing demonstrators.

Crowds had gathered at Sharpeville to hand in identity documents known as "pass books" to the police, responding

to a call by PAC leader Robert Sobukwe to end the hated pass system which controlled blacks' movements.

It was abolished in 1986 in one of the first of a string of reforms. "Sobukwe told us we should not go to the police station to fight but simply to deliver passes," said Matsose.

Many of the Sharpeville protesters were hit in the back as they fled the gunfire. None of the men, women and children killed there, nor their relatives, ever received compensation or an apology from the government.

The PAC, which was among dozens of political groups freed in February from severe political restrictions, was due to hold a rally in Sharpeville's stadium later today.

A railways spokesman said trains were running virtually empty and three-quarters of rail staff had stayed at home in the

Witwatersrand. The region's bus operators reported 20 per cent of normal passenger loads.

Crowds stabbed five blacks to death in South Africa's Natal Province in fighting between rival anti-apartheid groups, police said today.

A police report said the bodies of four victims had been doused with paraffin and burned in Ezakheni township. A fifth person was killed in Mpumalanga township near Pietermaritzburg, the provincial capital.

In black townships in troubled Natal Province, youths erected barricades to halt taxi and bus services. Residents said many drivers were frightened to go to work.

Police advised motorists not to use a main highway near the city after black youths blocked the road with logs dragged off a commandeered timber truck.

Nasa to rescue miswired Titan 3

WASHINGTON, March 21, (AP): The National Aeronautics and Space Administration will talk with Aerospace company officials tomorrow about sending astronauts to rescue a \$15-million communications satellite stranded in space by a miswired Titan 3 rocket.

The Intelsat 6 satellite is whirling around earth at an altitude of 276 miles (444 kilometres) — about 22,000 miles (35,400 kilometres) lower than it should be to do its job.

"The design was wrong," said Judy Stowell, a spokeswoman for Martin Marietta Corp., which built the rocket. "Our analysis shows an engineering design error caused the vehicle to be wired improperly."

As a result, after the Titan was launched on March 14, the satellite didn't separate automatically as it was supposed to. When engineers sent a separation signal, a small rocket that was to boost the satellite to its duty station stayed with the spent Titan and left the satellite marooned.

A Martin Marietta spokesman was quoted by the Denver Post as saying that the Titan had been wired to launch two satellites and that the separation signal went to a location where there was none. But Ms Stowell said yesterday that explanation was premature and that two committees were investigating the failure.

While Martin Marietta searched for the cause, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration scheduled its meeting at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston with representatives of Intelsat, owner of the satellite, and Hughes Aircraft, its builder.

Intelsat, a 118-nation consortium, did not insure the satellite, which was to have gone into service over the Atlantic Ocean. A spokesman, Tony Trujillo, said it was the most sophisticated communications satellite ever built, capable of carrying 120,000 telephone calls simultaneously.

Intelsat was being charged \$115 million for the Titan rocket and launch by Martin Marietta. The satellite cost an additional \$157 million.



Gonzalez freed

MANUEL Leal Gonzalez (centre) is embraced by relatives and friends after his release from a Santiago prison. Gonzalez is the first political prisoner released under the new government of President Patricio Aylwin. Aylwin pardoned 46 out of 430 people imprisoned during the government of president Augusto Pinochet. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Pop singer Estefan injured in accident

TOBYHANNA, Pennsylvania, March 21, (UPI): Pop singer Gloria Estefan and five members of her entourage were injured in a bus-truck collision yesterday on a snowy highway in the Pocono mountains.

A spokeswoman at community medical centre in Scranton said Estefan was admitted to the hospital. Her condition was not immediately available.

State police said the accident occurred in the Westbound lanes of Interstate 380 near Tobyhanna and involved Estefan's tour bus and at least one tractor-trailer.

Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine had been scheduled to

perform last night at the Onondaga County War Memorial in Syracuse, New York. The accident forced cancellation of the concert.

State police did not immediately release details of the accident. Tobyhanna is about 20 miles (32 km) southeast of Scranton.

Bonita Ferguson, a spokeswoman at community medical centre, said Estefan and six other people — five members of the singer's entourage and a truck driver — underwent emergency treatment.

"From what I'm told, she is being admitted," Ferguson said.

Containment of Soviet Union has succeeded: Bush

WASHINGTON, March 21, (AP): President George Bush, saying US military might helped bring about the shrinking of communism, yesterday warned of political turbulence ahead and cautioned against moving away from the US role as world peacekeeper.

In a 32-page report to Congress, Bush laid out a new US national security strategy in the wake of the dramatic shifts in the communist world and spelled out his hopes for securing three major arms control agreements this year.

He said the US postwar policy of containment "of an aggressive, repressive Soviet Union ... has succeeded brilliantly."

But, he added, "the pivotal responsibility for

ensuring the stability of the international balance remains ours, even as its requirements change in a new era. As the world enters a period of new hope for peace, it would be foolhardy to neglect the basic conditions of security that are bringing it about."

The president, in a separate statement, said his new national security strategy "reflects these changes ... but it is grounded in realism."

The annual report produced by Bush's National Security Council said that Western rearmament and economic boom in the 1980s helped trigger "the systemic crisis engulfing the communist world."

"We have seen powerful, pent-up democratic forces unleashed all across Eastern Europe that

have overturned communist dictatorships and are reversing the pattern of Soviet dominance," it said.

"Such fundamental political change will likely be turbulent. There may be setbacks and new sources of instability" as the Soviet Union and the states of Eastern Europe "advance into historically uncharted waters."

Bush, in his statement, said: "While providing adequately for our defence, we will look to our economic well-being as the foundation of our long-term strength."

The report said: "Our goal is to move beyond containment, to seek the integration of the Soviet Union into the international system as a constructive partner."

Poindexter jury to see Reagan video testimony

WASHINGTON, March 21, (UPI): The first full day of defence testimony in John Poindexter's Iran-Contra trial featured former president Ronald Reagan, who insisted in videotaped testimony he did not know about key parts of the scandal and never ordered aides to lie.

The defence planned today to begin showing jurors seven hours and 40 minutes of videotaped testimony Reagan provided under oath in Los Angeles Feb 16 and 17. The video testimony was expected to last until mid-day tomorrow.

The prosecution rested its case yesterday arguing that Poindexter, 53, who was Reagan's national security adviser, was a mastermind behind the worst scandal of Reagan's presidency.

The retired navy rear admiral is charged with five felony counts of lying to the US Congress and then trying to block its investigation of the scandal. He is the highest-ranking administration official to stand trial in the Iran-Contra affair.

While the seven women, five-man jury had not seen the nine videotapes, their contents are not a surprise. Printed transcripts were released to reporters on Feb 22 and the resulting stories were printed and broadcast worldwide.

The tapes have never been seen on television, however.

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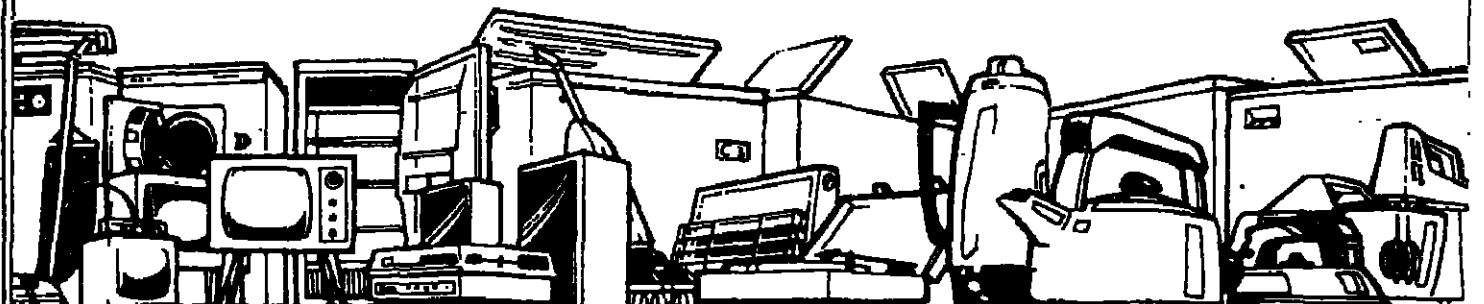
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INTERNATIONAL

Tanks roll in Romania as riots kill six

TIRGU MURES, Romania, March 21, (UPI): Army tanks and troops kept rival ethnic groups apart today following overnight clashes that left at least six people dead and nearly 300 wounded.

The tanks rolled into the Tirgu Mures' main square late yesterday to break up fighting by rival groups of demonstrators who battled with iron bars, axes and clubs in Transylvania's worst ethnic unrest since World War II.

A spokesman for the Mures county provisional government confirmed six people were killed in the fighting and 294 wounded, 36 of them seriously, the official news agency Rompres said. At least 318 have been injured since bitter ethnic rioting erupted Monday.

Despite the military intervention scattered violence continued through the night, and one of the

city's main hotels was stormed and heavily damaged.

Tirgu Mures, an industrial and cultural centre in the picturesque upper Mures valley about 200 miles northwest of Bucharest, was reported calm today morning, but the situation remained tense as a group of about 100 ethnic Hungarians continued to occupy the city's main square.

An investigating panel commissioned by the national government in an emergency meeting late Tuesday was dispatched to Tirgu Mures to assess the situation.

The official Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug said there were reports that ethnic Hungarians in surrounding villages were arming themselves and forming combat units.

"Some have already arrived (in Tirgu Mures by buses)," Tanjug said.

The violence followed a week of escalating tension over Hungarian demands for more cultural autonomy, including schools in their native language and Hungarian-language books and newspapers.

The Western province of Transylvania, where most of Romania's Hungarian minority is concentrated, has seen a resurgence of Hungarian nationalism since the Dec 22 overthrow of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who aggressively carried out a policy of forced assimilation.

What started as a "dialogue" Tuesday between ethnic Hungarians and Romanians outside the provincial government's headquarters "ultimately turned into a violent clash during which tens of

persons were wounded, several of them very badly," the official Romanian news agency Rompres said.

Romanians from surrounding towns arrived in buses and trucks, attacking ethnic Hungarians with primitive axes and iron bars.

After several hours of violence, army troops backed by tanks stationed outside the city entered the town square and separated the fighting factions. The tanks remained in position in the Main Square, which was littered with broken park benches and other debris.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn sent an urgent message to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Tuesday expressing "profound anxiety" over the "serious atrocities" committed against ethnic Hungarians, the official Hungarian news agency MTI said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Warning to drivers

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, March 21, (AP): The road administration will erect traffic signs to warn drivers of a frog crossing, Swedish television said yesterday.

The signs will stay up for a few summer weeks, when frogs outside the town of Sjosa in the province of Sormland leave their winter nests on one side of the road and cross over to mate in Sjosa bay.

No-visa accord

BUDAPEST, March 21, (Reuters): West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher will visit Hungary on the eve of Sunday's elections to sign an accord abolishing bilateral visa requirements, Hungarian officials said yesterday.

Foreign Ministry head of department Tade Alföldi told Reuters the no-visa agreement would take effect on May 1.

Watercolour sold

PARIS, March 21, (AP): A rare Van Gogh watercolour sold for \$4.66 million yesterday during an auction of impressionist art.

The price fetched for "Les Toits" (The Rooftops) at the prestigious Drouot-Montaigne auction house fell within predictions of 25-30 million francs (\$4.5 million).

Nato's nuclear arms

BRUSSELS, March 21, (Reuters): Nato will keep an array of nuclear weapons in Europe in future, despite the prospect of German unification and massive changes in East-West relations, a top Nato official said yesterday.

Assistant Secretary-General Henning Wegener said the number of nuclear weapons would be reduced through negotiations with Moscow, once East and West had started to implement an agreement to cut conventional forces in Europe.

Bombs explode

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, March 21, (AP): Two IRA bombs exploded at an east Belfast missile plant yesterday, slightly injuring four people, and in a separate attack gunmen killed a north Belfast Protestant, police said.

Police headquarters in Belfast said in a statement that the blast at the Short Brothers plant had been preceded by warning telephone calls from the Irish Republican Army to Belfast media.

Compassionate hunt

LONDON, March 21, (AP): The detective who will lead the hunt for alleged Nazi war criminals living in Britain pledged yesterday that the investigation would be "sensitive and compassionate."

Detective chief superintendent Tony Comben said he had begun planning how inquiries would be conducted under the war crimes bill, which was approved in principle by the House of Commons on Monday night.

Bill approved

MOSCOW, March 21, (UPI): A legislative committee moved toward satisfying a US condition for improved trade relations and approved a bill lifting most travel and emigration restrictions for Soviet citizens.

The bill passed by the parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee would remove the requirement for exit visas, ending a sad chapter of Soviet history in which tens of thousands of "refuseniks" were denied permission to leave the country and sent to prison for even seeking it.

Columbus' letter

MADRID: March 21, (Reuters): A letter by Italian explorer Christopher Columbus announcing the discovery of America in 1492 is being translated into more than 150 languages, Spanish organisers of the 500th anniversary celebrations said yesterday.

Swede kids to be taxed

STOCKHOLM, March 21, (AP): Highly taxed Swedish ewe children with more than \$160 in the bank must pay income tax starting next year, a government official said yesterday.

"You are a tax subject as soon as you are born," said senior treasury official Urban Eriksson. "That will be reflected when a tax reform takes effect in 1991."

Fredriksson confirmed a report in the Svenska Dagbladet newspaper which said children with savings accounts will have to file tax returns on their interest.

So far, most children's accounts were sheltered under tax deduction, which are being eliminated under the reform. The government has said the reform is designed to increase work incentive and big savings by reducing the top rates on high income. Tax on the highest incomes is being reduced in stages from 80 per cent as of last year to 50 per cent next year.

Lithuania creates border guard force

Supreme Council protests Soviet manoeuvres

VILNIUS, USSR, March 21, (Agencies): The breakaway republic of Lithuania yesterday outlined plans for its own border guard, despite a Kremlin warning not to try to take over agencies run by Moscow.

Lithuanians have been registering during the past three days for what was referred to generally as "regional self-defence units."

Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene said yesterday Lithuania hoped to have 37 border posts installed within 10 days in spots where

"It will be a very gentle regime," said Mrs Prunskiene. "But it will show there is a border already being observed and protected by our country."

Lithuania declared itself independent on March 11, 50 years after it was occupied by the Red Army and annexed to the Soviet Union.

The border posts may help convince other governments that Lithuania is controlling its territory and should be recognised as a full-fledged country, said Edward Tuskenis of the republic's Parliament's information centre.

In a stern warning to Lithuania on Monday, the Kremlin ordered its own ministries to ensure there were no interruptions in the usual customs and frontier procedures, trade, transport and communications.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis said yesterday the Soviet warning, which did not specify which steps Moscow would take to protect its interests, amounted to the beginning of negotiations. He noted that Lithuania agreed with much of the statement, including the order to maintain trade.

The small Baltic republic was quiet yesterday, with none of the signs of Soviet troop movements that had intimidated the population over the weekend. Officials said there also were no signs of an economic blockade by the Soviet Union.

"We are still receiving gas and oil," Lithuania's two most critical imports from the Soviet Union, said Mrs Prunskiene, an economist who was elected prime minister on Saturday.

Telephone communications between Lithuania and the West, which were cut off for 2-1/2 days due to what Soviet officials said was maintenance, were restored on Monday.

But Lithuanian Deputy Prime Minister Kazimieras Motieka said Soviet military airfields "have an excessive number of helicopters and perhaps also military units."

Strategically important Lithuania has eight military bases and thousands of troops, according to emigre sources.

The supreme council of Lithuania opened debate today on



Lithuanian volunteers in paramilitary gear erase the name Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic from a signpost in the village of Pageysai at the border with the Kaliningrad area, after Lithuania proclaimed its independence. (Reuters wirephoto)

the structure of its new government after sending a protest to the Kremlin against Soviet military manoeuvres in the Baltic republic.

Prunskiene sent a telegram to Gorbachev last night complaining that the recent military operations were creating unnecessary tensions.

"The people of Lithuania are deeply disturbed about the actions of the Soviet armed forces: the intense mobilisation of armoured vehicles and tanks, the intensified flights of military air force planes, and unauthorised sorties into Lithuanian territory by paratroopers involved in intelligence activities," she said in the cable.

Mrs Prunskiene said the Lithuania Parliament had not been notified in advance of the manoeuvres, nor on the status of the Soviet army in Lithuania.

Algis Bernatavicius broke ranks with the Red Army and joined hundreds of other Lithuanians who deserted after their Baltic republic declared itself independent.



Ivens waves a bunch of flowers as he is greeted by sympathisers during a rally in Riga, Latvia, March 17. (Reuters wirephoto)

No Czech arms for dictators: Havel

PARIS, March 21, (Agencies): President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia vowed yesterday that his country's venerable arms industry will no longer sell weapons to dictatorial or totalitarian regimes.

The central European country, a major arms manufacturer since before World War II, has supplied to countries such as Libya sophisticated explosives that may have found their way to terrorists.

One of Czechoslovakia's most lethal explosives, Semtex, was used in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103, which exploded mid-air in December 1988, killing all 259 on board and 11 persons on the ground in Lockerbie, Scotland.

"Today, we stop all arms sales to dictatorial or totalitarian countries," Havel said at a news conference near the end of his two-day official visit to France. He did not say which nations he had in mind.

Royal family gets a raise

LONDON, March 21, (AP): Britain's royal family got a 9 per cent raise in yesterday's national budget.

The civil list, as the royal family's government allowance is known, totalled £6,762,000, known as the civil list, up from last year's £6,195,300 (\$10.5 million) when the pound was worth 10 cents more.

Queen Elizabeth II received the biggest share at £5.09 million (nearly \$8.2 million).

Mongolia has new president, premier

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia, March 21, (AP): The communist-dominated legislature today elected a new president in a shuffle forced by pro-democracy protests.

As a former mining engineer and trade minister became the nation's new head of state, the legislature also nominated an agricultural expert to be prime minister.

However, a government official acknowledged that the draft constitution amendment and new election law being considered by the legislature will fall short of what the new vocal opposition is demanding.

The draft election law contains no mention of opposition parties, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The proposed constitutional says Mongolians may join parties only "which correspond to the national interest and solidarity."

Opposition activists said that in pre-legislative talks with the government, both sides agreed on broader language allowing anyone "to freely choose which party he will belong to."

The 378-seat legislature, the Great People's Hural, elected as President Punsalmaagiin Ochirbat, a minister of economic relations and supply since 1988.

The government source said he believed that Ochirbat has initiated a policy over the past few years of seeking ties with countries outside the Soviet bloc in which it has belonged since 1921 communist revolution.

Ochirbat replaces Jambyn Batmunkh, 64, who resigned last week as Communist Party chief and this week as president.

The legislature accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Dumaagiin Sodnom and nominated as his successor Sharavyn Gungjaador, 54, one of five vice-ministers.

Gungjaador, born to a herding family, also is minister of agriculture. Both he and the new president are Soviet-educated.

The legislature was expected to confirm the prime minister tomorrow or Friday.

The government source said the two men were chosen by the Communist Party's central committee in a closed session yesterday.

The Hural began its annual session this morning in the government palace. The morning proceedings were broadcast live on television and radio, only the second time in history this has been done. But the broadcast stopped unexpectedly during the afternoon when the Hural began discussing the new president and prime minister.

The half-dozen opposition groups which have sprung up in recent months did not immediately comment on the Hural's choices. Oppositionists held a rally yesterday to demand the Batmunkh stay on as president.

The ruling party has not yet agreed to a direct presidential election.

Currently the president is chosen by the Hural. His formal title is chairman of the presidium of the Hural.

The opposition has accused the leadership of shifting Communist Party and government posts as a cosmetic gesture and of dragging its feet on providing legal guarantees for open democratic election.

Labour parliamentarian John Home Robertson summed up his party's attitude, saying: "Misery today and peanuts tomorrow."

Opposition leader Neil Kinnock called it "a bits and pieces budget" and a stop-gap measure.

Paul Chertkow, chief currency strategist at Citicorp said: "This budget was a missed opportunity. It is by no means clear with his neutral fiscal stance that 1.5 per cent base rates are going to get inflation down as forecast."

The Financial Times in an editorial



Solidarity leader Lech Walesa (right) receives a honorary doctorate from the University. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mitterrand tells Kohl: mind Europe

Coalition talks soon

BONN, March 21, (AP): French President Francois Mitterrand sent Chancellor Helmut Kohl a telegram speaking out for German unity but also reminding him of the quest for closer European integration, Kohl's government said today.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Conservative Alliance that won East Germany's parliamentary election were expected in Bonn for talks with Kohl. Kohl and his East German allies are pressing for quick German unification.

Government officials said the East German politicians would be meeting with Kohl at 8 pm (1900 GMT).

Kohl's chief spokesman, Hans Klein, said Mitterrand had sent Kohl a telegram congratulating him for the victory of his East German allies in last Sunday's elections.

According to Klein, Mitterrand also told Kohl that German unity must be part of the larger process of overcoming the divisions of Europe.

France has previously expressed worries that Kohl might allow himself to be sidetracked from the goal of European integration, which includes ambitious plans for creating a single West European market by the end of 1992. Paris is seeking to link a United Germany firmly with the West and prevent it from following a separate path.

Yesterday, the West German government announced it will end special benefits for East German resettlers on July 1, saying it expects to have "crucial agreements" on unification in place by the summer.

Volker Ruehe, head of Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, made the announcement after meeting with the chairman of the three Conservative Parties in East Berlin yesterday two days after the balloting.

Ruehe did not mention an agenda for the talks in the West German capital. But Kohl was expected to press alliance leaders to move quickly to form a new governing coalition in East Berlin that he expects to become a partner in accelerating the pace toward unification.

Among the political leaders expected for the meeting was Lothar de Maiziere, head of the East German CDU and the likely new premier. His party, once closely aligned with the ruling communists, got the biggest share of the votes Sunday after heavy backing from Kohl.

■ The Berlin bunker in which

New E. German parliamentarians dubbed 'spies'

EAST BERLIN, March 21, (Reuters): Charges that many new parliamentarians were informants for the old Stasi security police cast a dark shadow over East Germany's young democracy today, only three days after the first free elections.

The triumphant Christian Democrats, who were due for talks in Bonn today with their sponsor, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, were also attacked as long-time pawns of the disgraced communist regime, toppled by popular protest last autumn.

Rainer Eppelbaum, who took over the Democratic Awakening Party last week after its leader Wolfgang Schnur was unveiled as an informer, said up to 10 per cent of deputies in the new parliament had helped the hated Stasi security police.

"I estimate there were about 40 per cent of the 400 that served the Stasi," he told the West German Bild newspaper in an interview published today.

"We should open the files of all 400 deputies and examine them," he said, adding that the administration of communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow was already studying the issue.

Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler and his mistress killed themselves at the end of World War Two will be opened for experts to examine.

West Berlin city administrators said yesterday that an East German official had given permission for experts to examine the ruins of the brand proof shelter near the Brandenburg Gate.



Lothar de Maiziere, party leader of East German Christian Democratic Party (CDU) chats with CDU's Secretary-General Martin Kirchmar (left) prior to a meeting of the party executive in East Berlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Thatcher woos British voters with neutral budget

LONDON, March 21, (Reuters): Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major has wooed voters with a neutral budget but economists complained that it was unlikely to defeat inflation.

Some newspaper editorials said yesterday's budget failed to tackle serious economic woes which have helped push the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher way behind the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls.

But other editorials and several business leaders applauded the cautious approach from Major, son of a circus variety star,

calling his debut budget imaginative and ingenious.

In Britain's first televised budget speech, Major underlined his commitment to high interest rates to dampen inflation to alleviate the current economic gloom. He warned: "The position will worsen noticeably before it improves."

The budget gave incentives to saving, promoted safety at soccer grounds through tax cuts and offered relief to work-place creches and charities. It also increased duties on cigarettes, alcohol and tobacco.

Labour parliamentarian John Home Robertson summed up his party's attitude, saying: "Misery today and peanuts tomorrow."

Opposition leader Neil Kinnock called it "a bits and pieces budget" and a stop-gap measure.

Paul Chertkow, chief currency strategist at Citicorp said: "This budget was a missed opportunity. It is by no means clear with his neutral fiscal stance that 1.5 per cent base rates are going to get inflation down as forecast."

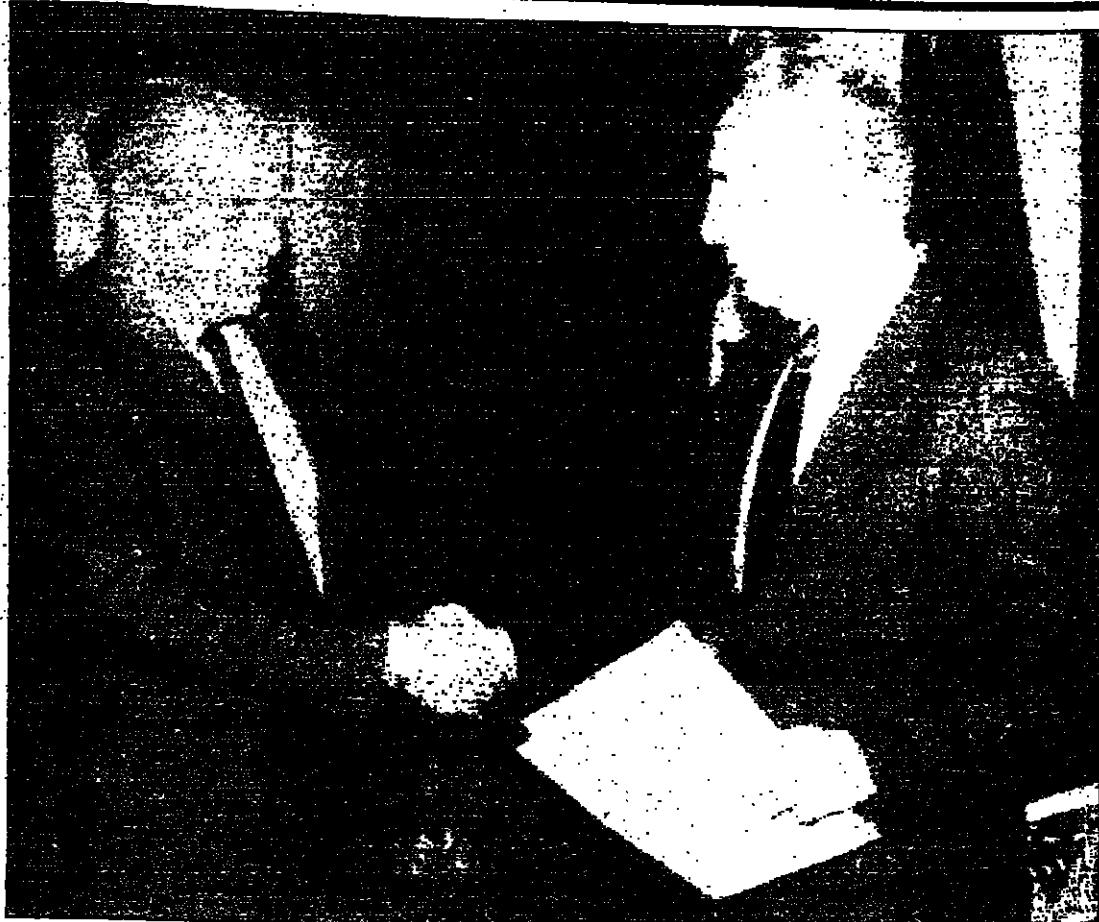
The Financial Times in an editorial

titled "Major in a minor key" said there was nothing tough about the budget. "This does not look like the budget of a government that seriously intends to follow underlying inflation before the next election."

David Morrison, economist at Finance House S.G. Warburg Securities, predicted the budget would not reassure investors.

"For 1990, Britain will be the G-7 country with the lowest growth and the highest inflation. What a bad combination."

Natwest Capital Markets felt the budget was uninspired and disappointing.



Labour Party leader Shimon Peres (right) and Israeli President Chaim Herzog shake hands on Tuesday in the President's offices as he asks Peres to form Israel's next government. (Reuters wirephoto)

Peres finds it a difficult task

Shamir turns down coalition offer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 21. (Agencies): Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, chosen to form a new Israeli government, has pledged to press for peace with Palestinians but still faces a hard task to find coalition partners.

"I believe very deeply that this is a time for peace," Peres, 66, said after President Chaim Herzog chose him over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to form the next government.

"Now we have... to form a new government out of a fragmented political net. The task is heavy and complicated," Peres said.

After three days of consultations with all parliamentary factions, Herzog gave Peres three weeks to form a coalition to replace Shamir.

Meanwhile, Peres invited Shamir today to join him in a new coalition—but Shamir predictably said no.

Peres called Shamir and invited him to join a broad government, and the prime minister told him: "We of the Likud have a decision not to join a government led by Peres," a spokeswoman for Shamir told Reuters.

Peres asked him: "Is that final?" and the prime minister said: "Yes, that's the decision."

he said. The telephone call was widely seen as a tactical move by Peres, who has committed his party to forming the broadest possible government devoted to Middle East peace.

Political commentators said Labour and Likud could still end up in another partnership. Shamir remains prime minister until a new government takes power.

Peres' party last week walked out of a coalition with Shamir's Likud Party and ousted the prime minister in a parliamentary no-confidence vote over US-proposed peace talks with Palestinians.

Peres' appointment was sure to please Washington and Palestinian nationalists waging a 27-month-old revolt against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We shall reply affirmatively to the proposal and in the wake of this we hope to meet and arrange the talks in Cairo," Peres said after Herzog's announcement.

Shamir's hardline policies have angered US leaders while Peres has strongly endorsed US Secretary of State James Baker's peace proposals.

While prime minister from 1984-1986, Peres pulled Israeli troops out of Lebanon and cut runaway inflation.

He said his priorities would be peace, national security, absorption of Soviet immigrants and a revival of the economy.

But he cannot succeed without the support of some of the four small religious parties which hold a crucial 18 of 120 seats in parliament.

Immediately after hearing the President's decision, Peres rushed to the headquarters of the Agudat Israel Party which supported his nomination and the no-confidence vote.

Peres sought an early coalition agreement from the 'five' long-bearded rabbis of Agudat Israel last night, hoping the remaining three religious factions would follow suit.

Two other pivotal religious parties, Degel Hatorah and Shas, told the President they favoured another Likud-led government but had not ruled out supporting Labour.

Herzog said legislators were split 60-60 between rightist Shamir and the more dovish Peres but the no-confidence vote showed the nation wanted to take a different path.

PLO living up to anti-terrorism pledge: US report

WASHINGTON, March 21. (Reuters): The Bush administration told Congress yesterday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had lived up to its 1988 pledge to renounce terrorism.

But the administration expressed concern about violent actions taken by PLO constituent groups and the organisation's failure to dissociate itself from them.

The findings were issued in a State Department report to Congress required under a law enacted last year stemming from the Reagan administration's reversal of long-standing US policy not to talk to the PLO.

That action followed a statement by PLO leader Yasser Arafat renouncing terrorism.

"It is the administration's position that the PLO has adhered to its commitments undertaken in 1988 to renounce terrorism," the report said.

It said actions undertaken by Damascus-based PLO groups had been a problem but added: "We have no evidence that these actions were authorised or approved by the PLO executive committee or Arafat personally."

The State Department said the loosely-structured PLO suffered from deficiencies in controlling all of its constituent groups, especially those that opposed aspects of current PLO policy and carried out cross-border attacks.

It said the United States had told the PLO it would hold the organisation to its commitments

and would continue to examine all incidents on a case-by-case basis.

Of almost 30 border and rocket attacks made against Israel by Palestinian groups since December 1988, he report said, nine had involved PLO constituent groups.

Although the United States had no evidence they were ordered by Arafat or the PLO executive committee, "we have made it clear to the PLO that these activities raise serious questions about the PLO's commitment to renounce terrorism," the report said.

It also said that the United States was concerned about the public pronouncements of the PLO, its constituent groups and individual leaders.

Israel's army chief of staff, contradicting his government's diplomatic offensive against the PLO, said yesterday the main PLO faction was not launching attacks against Israel.

The Bush administration, apparently softening its tone on Israeli settlements, said yesterday it would support a plan to guarantee \$400 million in loans for Israel to build housing for Soviet Jewish immigrants if it received adequate assurances on the use of the funds.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said the United States would approach the issue with understanding in negotiations with the Israeli government. He declined to say what assurances were needed.

Khaddafi calls for Western boycott

ROME, March 21. (AP): Libyan leader Col. Muammar Khaddafi called for a Muslim economic boycott against the United States, Britain and West Germany and said no Islamic country should have diplomatic ties with them, according to a report.

Libya has said it suspects the United States and West Germany, along with Israel, were behind last Wednesday's fire at a Libyan plant that allegedly produced poison gas. All three countries have denied any involvement.

In Saudi Arabia, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference declared full solidarity with Libya and strongly denounced what it called threats and pressure against Tripoli.

"Libya has every right to equip itself with the means that will ensure its economic and social progress," the 46-member organisation said in a statement. It said the Rabta fire was of "doubtful origin."

"Khaddafi's remarks, carried by the official Libyan news agency Jana, made no mention of the fire. The report said Khaddafi accused the United States and its allies of conducting a campaign of subversion against Islamic countries."

It quoted Khaddafi as saying there should be no US, British or West German embassies in any Islamic state.

Libya has diplomatic relations with West Germany, but the United States and Britain severed ties with Libya years ago.

Khaddafi was quoted as saying the Muslim world is facing a historic struggle with a "hostile satanic force" and that "no Islamic country should establish relations with the US government and its allies. Rather, we should have a decisive and perpetual boycott against them."

The agency also said Khaddafi urged Muslims "to work towards withdrawing the Arab oil money piled up in the Jewish banks in America," and called such an effort "a sacred battle."



Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Maguid (right) welcomes Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi in Cairo on Tuesday. The two men discussed efforts to end a 15-year civil war in Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Egypt jails author for insulting Islam

CAIRO, March 21. (UPI): Authorities jailed an Egyptian author and his publisher for writing a book lampooning prophets. But Islamic scholars in Cairo precluded yesterday a death decree similar to that of late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

Police arrested Allaa Hamed and his publisher Mohammad Madbouli on Friday after publication of Hamed's book, "The Vacuum in a Man's Mind."

Hamed is being kept in jail pending charges, but his publisher was released Monday on \$2000 bail, a police spokesman said. Authorities have already confiscated 700 copies of the book.

The daily Al Akhbar, in today's editions, quoted Islamic scholars in Cairo as saying yes-

terday that the book, assaulted Islam.

Late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a death decree in February last year against British author Salman Rushdie, charging his book "The Satanic Verses" blasphemed Islam. Khomeini offered a reward of several million dollars to anyone who killed Rushdie, and promised that martyrs who died in the attempt to kill Rushdie would go to heaven.

Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who took over after Khomeini's death last June, renewed the death decree earlier this year, and one Iranian clergyman said anyone who had an opportunity to do so but failed to kill Rushdie was committing a sin.

Referred to AG for trial

Jordan charges twenty with fraud

AMMAN, March 21. (AP): A closed session of Parliament yesterday accused 20 prominent Jordanian citizens, including seven former cabinet members, of financial and administrative corruption and assigned their cases to the attorney general.

A Jordanian parliament member, speaking on condition of anonymity, said those accused included four members of the present parliament that was elected in November.

The names were made available to the Associated Press and were confirmed by four deputies who attended yesterday's session.

But they could not be used under a Jordanian law that prohibits slander of private and public figures until the accused are convicted by Jordanian courts.

State-run television, however, broadcast that documents were sent to the attorney general because investigations were under way to pursue "those who were responsible for mismanagement."

The charges were brought against seven former ministers,

among whom three are members of the present Parliament. In addition, an eighth, well-placed politician was charged.

Also accused were a former senior security official, two former senior central bank officials, three prominent merchants, a leading banker and five senior government department officials, among whom one is member of Jordan's present Parliament.

The government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran backed the parliament's decision, which was adopted by 76 votes with four abstentions, the deputy said.

The deputy said the abstentions in the 80-member chamber were the four deputies who were accused.

"The Parliament decided to submit immediately the documents available to it to the attorney general to investigate the charges brought against them after long parliament investigations," the deputy said.

He said parliament also decided to prohibit the accused from traveling and to seize their property and cash.

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Keep off students' union, Ben Ali tells opposition

TUNIS, March 21. (Reuters): Tunisian President Zine Al-Abidine Ben Ali, against a background of campus unrest and labour grievances, told opposition parties yesterday to keep out of student movement and trade union politics.

"It is the duty of all political groups... not to carry the political struggle over into the university, which we consider far too sacred to be the arena for a struggle," he said in a speech commemorating the 34th anniversary of independence.

The use of professional and trade union demands for political ends serves no one and has no justification in the age of multiparty pluralism. Trade union work has its rules and its context, just as the work of the parties does," he added.

Officials accused the unrecognised Islamist Nahdha (renaissance) Movement, probably the second political force in the country, of stirring up trouble on campuses in February.

The unrest has died down since the authorities rounded up several hundred activists and enrolled them in the armed forces.

The Tunisian General Union of Labour, the trade union umbrella organisation, is campaigning for salary increases but the only strikes so far have been among teachers and engineers.

"Our demands are trade union demands and have no political character. The purchasing power of people on salaries has fallen 40 per cent since 1985," said Mohamed Choudouli, assistant secretary general of the union.

Palestinians ask for TV, radio station

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 21. (Reuters): Palestinians are asking Israel to let them set up radio and television stations in occupied Arab east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank.

Lawyer Jonathan Kuttab said yesterday he applied last week to Israel's Communications Ministry and West Bank military authorities on behalf of Palestinian groups.

Kuttab said the applications were a test of Israel's commitment to free elections proposed last May for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"No elections would be free if people could not express their opinions," Kuttab said. "If they don't grant the licence, it would prove to the world they are not serious about the elections idea."

Five Palestinian newspapers, all based in occupied east Jerusalem, are licensed by Israel which annexed the sector after capturing it with the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war.

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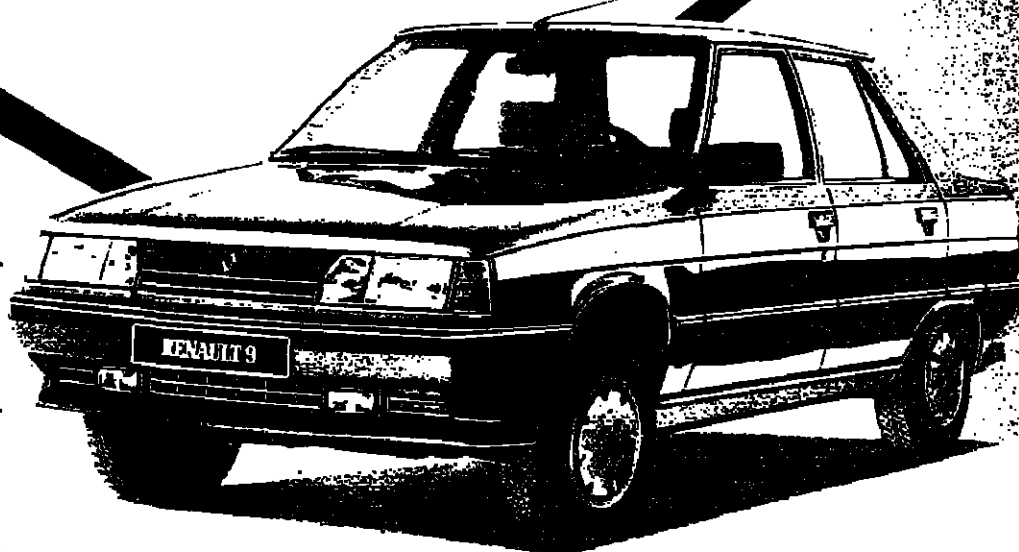
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Organ donations must be voluntary: poll

Control process, say prospective donors

THE issue of donating human organs after death is still being debated and in the meantime, there are hundreds of patients in the country who are in imperative need of donor organs to save their lives.

To highlight this issue, a local daily conducted an opinion poll with some people, the majority of whom supported the donation process. Most of those covered by the poll said that no special conditions should be imposed on the donation process, except the approval of the donor before death or the approval of his family after death.

Some called for organising an awareness campaign among the public, clarifying that members of the Organs Transplant

Society should visit people in their houses to encourage them to donate their organs after death.

Meanwhile people called for adopting a religious Fatwa in this connection, but warned against transferring this issue from a free donation process into a commercial commodity and stressed on the necessity of imposing control by the Ministry of Public Health on the donation process.

Hisham Mussaad said that his approval to donate depends mainly on the attitude of the clerics adding that the approval of the dead's family is a must.

Mohammed Al Hussaini said that he agrees to donate his organs after death

describing this as a humanitarian act, but he said no condition should be imposed on the donation process.

Ibrahim Al Qallaf said that he agrees to donate some specific organs such as the pancreas, kidneys and heart but he flatly refused to donate his eyes.

Salman Mohammed said that organ donation is a human issue and it needs a public awareness campaign. He added that the Organs Transplant Society should play its role in this connection.

Atteya Al Misri, a lawyer, said that organ donation is a unique measure particularly after it has been approved by clerics. He called for the imposition of strict control on the Organs Transplant

Society by the Ministry of Public Health. Khaled Al Zafiri said that he will donate some of his organs as there are a lot of patients who suffer kidney failure and the majority need organ donors.

Nabil Al Alawi from Bahrain Radio said that the information media could play a significant role in this respect. He added that the Islamic Fatwa in this connection must be published and commented that in Bahrain, the Minister of Public Health, Dr Jawad Al Oreyed was a donor in Bahrain.

Nazeh Al Khaodary described the donation process as a good step forward and pointed out that Islam has sanctioned this issue. He called for intensifying relevant seminars.

Nurses may get a raise in salary

THE director of the Nursing Services Department at the Ministry of Public Health Mariam Al Raqam has said that the ministry is currently considering the feasibility of increasing the salaries of the nursing staff.

She told a local daily that the proposed increase would include allowances for nightshift, supervision and training, and that the proposed need was promoted by the increasing number of resigning nurses among Kuwaitis and residents alike.

She said that the department had submitted a memo to senior ministry officials seeking approval for a proposed work nature allowance for staff operating at the outpatient clinics.

Envoys received

KUWAIT, March 21, (Kuna): Kuwait City Governor Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah received in his office this morning the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait Marco Colombo who called on the minister for familiarisation.



Czech film festival opens

These lovely Czech fashion models graced the opening of the Czech Film Festival which was inaugurated Tuesday night under the title, "Cinema of Youth and the Art of Animation." A large number of senior officials, diplomats and cinema fans turned up at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium to watch a short film "Cock-A-Do!" and a feature film "A House for Two," starring Ondrej Vetchy and Jiri Schmitzer.

The festival will continue until March 25. All films are subtitled in English and screenings start at 7.30 pm.

Underground sewage tunnels shortly

KUWAIT'S Minister of Public Works, Abdurrahman Al Houti was quoted as saying that the ministry will construct main and sub tunnels at intervals of 36 km and at a depth of 25 metres.

In an interview with a local daily, the minister said that there are several projects still under study including pumping stations at Al Surra and Sabhan areas, in addition to the purification station at Um Al Haiman. Additionally, the ministry will undertake a rehabilitation project aimed at upgrading the Fifth Ring Road, particularly the area from West Al Ardiya to Mohammed Ben Al Qasem Street as also the construction of five pedestrian bridges. The official pointed out that the project is designed to alleviate traffic congestion, particularly during the morning rush hours.

He also said that the ministry will undertake projects related to roads and drainage at Al Surra, Al Farwaniya, Mishref and Al Ardiya, in addition to the construction of the road connecting Al Wafra Al Zour and Al Wafra-Mina Abdullah and the improvement of Al Jahra and Al Abdali roads.

Speaking of the major projects to be studied during 1990, the official said that the ministry will implement the marine flyover connecting Kuwait City and Al Subbiya. He added that this project aims at abridging the distance between the capital and Al Subbiya, in addition to the provision of more safety

and will enhance the economic and social relations between the two areas.

Speaking on the status of the road between Al Sharq and Mirqab area, the minister said that the project was supposed to be accomplished in August 1988. However, by that date the contractor had completed only 50 per cent of the project and the project had been awarded to a new contractor who began work on 1.6.1989. The project is expected to be completed by mid-1991, the official said.

He said that the project's high cost, in spite of the economic slump is attributed to the economic inflation prevailing in the world and commented that prices of equipments and spare parts had increased substantially and these will eventually be reflected on the project costs.

The first stage of the televised survey of the first, second, third and fourth areas has been completed, the minister said and added that the survey at the fifth and sixth areas will be completed soon to be followed by remaining areas.

The official said that the ministry is currently seeking optimum methods to eradicate the bad odours emanating from the purification stations and is planning to use biological and chemical methods to surmount this problem. The treatment falls within the televised survey project, the official said.

Black market in books: report

A BLACK market is in the offing in the country in the field of allied books related to the curriculum of the Ministry of Education, according to a local daily.

The daily added that as the Ministry of Information had banned these books, consequently their prices which were originally KD 1 had risen to KD 5.

To highlight this issue, the daily interviewed a number of students to enquire about the reasons for the need to purchase these books.

Mel Farid, a student in the secondary class said that she purchased all the allied books in physics, mathematics and chemistry and pointed out that most of the questions referred to in examinations were derived from these references. She added that these books include the questions and answers and the use of these books she does not need any additional help.

Abdul Aziz Al Otaihi a student in the secondary stage described these books as very important, particularly those relating to physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics. Otaihi who is studying in Saudi Arabia said that these books were within the reach of any student and each book cost only five Saudi riyals which is equivalent to about 400 fils.

Another student identified as Mail Jalal said that her father had purchased the English language book at KD3.500 and KD 4 the science book.

Murad Omer, a student in the higher secondary stage said that he was not interested in these type of books as the ministry's curriculums were sufficient and commented that the students who would like to upgrade their levels were resorting to these books.

Ali Khammas, also a student said that he had seen all these books and found them to be full of mistakes. Students using these will have a poor level of education, he said.

ISP students lash out at victimisation

Future of 1,400 at stake

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

A GROUP of International School of Pakistan (ISP) students have expressed fear about the outcome of their results in the SSC exams and have alleged they have been victimised because of a dispute between the ISP management and the Embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait.

As the Pakistan embassy withdrew their support for ISP, the embassy did not recommend the school for affiliation to Pakistan's Federal Board, resulting in a withdrawal of recognition, which is now being contested in a court in Pakistan. Consequently, students sitting for exams this year had to appear as private candidates although they had attended school. Some of them have been ISP students for nearly 10 years.

"We want someone to tell us what our fault is: we worked hard for the last two years and now this, appearing as private candidates. Why?" asked a group of 20 students. A total of 42 students took the exams this year.

"We don't know what is happening and what the trouble is (between ISP management and the embassy). We only know that as private students our future is at stake," they told Arab Times.

"We appeal to our country's official representatives in Kuwait not to spoil our careers by withholding recommendation

for the school. We deserve at least that," they said.

"Can you imagine our plight?" they asked. "If we don't appear as regular students, we will face tremendous difficulties in getting admission in good colleges in Pakistan," they said.

Careers

Even if an external student gets 80 per cent marks, preference is given to 'regular' students by Pakistani faculties for medicine and other career-oriented studies, they claimed.

They also expressed fear about the outcome of their results, particularly because the practicals were shifted at the last minute to the Shaab School. They said they were not happy with the examiners and the way the tests were conducted. Some students alleged they had to make do with inadequate chemicals and lab equipment. Some claimed that they were not tested properly and were asked a maximum of two questions each when the rules say they should be asked at least five questions. Students also claimed that their science reports, which they had taken, were not judged. "One examiner told us 'a litmus paper' is white," said one student.

"We appeal to whosoever will listen not to spoil our careers and judge our performance on merit and give us the marks we deserve; we also want our ambassador to use his better judgement and let us appear as regular students," they said.

A group of parents protested what they called the "excessive treatment toward our children." "We are disturbed about the current state of affairs; our children's future is at stake," they said.

Parents spoke out against the uncalculated, petty attitude of certain diplomats. "If the Kuwaiti authorities decide that the ISP should close due to the wrangle and power struggle, where will the 1,400 children go?" they asked.

Petty attitude

They said they can't understand the "enmity against children" and appealed to the benevolence of the ambassador of Pakistan urging him to "support the welfare of the students."

"If our ambassador takes care of our welfare, and changes our status to regular students, we'll back him all the way," said students.

In the interests of education, parents and students said, the embassy must encourage healthy competition among schools applying the Pakistani curriculum. "Healthy competition will improve the standard of education; the present attitude is harming our children. And no parent wants that," they said.

Some parents said they would take up the ISP matter with the higher authorities in Pakistan and if need be would appeal to their country's prime minister to intervene to set the matter right.



The London Shakespeare Group pictured with the representatives of the Arab Food Services Co. one of their sponsors.

Macbeth comes alive tonight

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

IT wasn't the best thing being British and in Iraq earlier this week but art knows no boundaries and Baghdad after all proved a suitable setting for the staging of Macbeth by the London Shakespeare Group.

The eight-member troupe arrived in Kuwait Tuesday, after a 10-day stint in Baghdad, with words of praise for the Iraqis they met.

"We were very well treated. People were extremely kind, I think they were embarrassed by the whole thing," said Frank Barrie who plays Macbeth. He was referring to the tension in British-Iraqi relations after the

execution of a British-based journalist Farzad Bazofi in Baghdad last week.

During the anti-British demonstrations the troupe was cooped up in the hotel and only the live TV broadcast gave them an idea of what was happening outside.

Said Lady Macbeth, alias Elizabeth Bell: "We were perfectly safe. On the day of the demonstrations the Iraqis were extra nice to us."

But at first sight it didn't look like it. Barrie arrived in Kuwait with most of his left leg in plaster and leaning on a crutch. He hastened to explain that he broke his knee in an accident in the UAE where the troupe gave a series of performances in Abu Dhabi,

Dubai and Sharjah. In Baghdad they played to a full house, mostly Iraqis, at the National Theatre that seats one thousand, two nights in a row. But their other performances at Baghdad's Rashid Theatre and in Basra and Mosul were cancelled and they kept busy by giving workshops at Baghdad University and visiting the archaeological sites.

The eight actors and actresses will appear in some 20 roles in Macbeth, a story about murderous ambition but also one of Shakespeare's most poetic tragedies.

The London Shakespeare Group will perform tonight at 8 pm and on Friday at 6 pm at the Kuwait English School in Salwa.

Qaboos-Fahd talks resume

RIYADH, March 21, (UPI): Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'eed of Oman arrived in Hafr Al Batin, a Saudi Arabian military complex about 270 miles (400-km) east of Riyadh on the east Saudi coast, for talks with Saudi King Fahd, Radio Riyadh reported.

The state-owned radio said talks between the two Arab monarchs were expected to centre on the latest Arab developments, as well as the situation in the Gulf region in light of the continuing, no-peace, no-war situation prevailing between Iran and Iraq. Both countries signed a UN-brokered ceasefire in their 8-

year-long war in Aug 1988, but have made no progress toward peace so far.

Gulf-based Arab diplomatic sources said Qaboos was also expected to discuss with Fahd the question of improving ties between Iran and Gulf Arab states. Arab Oman maintained traditionally good ties with Tehran, even at the height of the Gulf War, and has mediated between Tehran and Riyadh in the past.

Saudi Arabia snapped diplomatic ties with Iran two years ago, accusing Tehran of

interfering in its internal affairs. The Omani and Saudi leaders were expected to finalise a treaty demarcating their common borders during the visit of the Sultan, diplomatic sources later said.

The sources, who asked not to be identified further, noted that an initial agreement on the border was reached by the two leaders when King Fahd was in Oman in December for the annual summit meeting of GCC leaders that was hosted by Qaboos.

The absence of border demarcations dates to the colonial eras.

Differences erupt within Fatah and DFLP: reports

Row over election of Efranji

KUWAIT, March 21, (AP): Differences have erupted inside two key command groups of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, including Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah, Kuwait newspapers reported today.

The row inside Fatah broke out over the election of the PLO representative to Bonn, Abdullah Al Efranji two days ago as member of the Fatah Central Council, the daily Al Seyassah reported.

It said Efranji was being accused of working for Israel.

The policy scuffle within the left-leaning Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, already mentioned in recent Arab press reports, was confirmed by another Kuwaiti daily.

The election of Efranji, the PLO's representative in Bonn, was challenged by Ghazi Al Hussein, who submitted evidence to Fatah's 106-member revolutionary council that Efranji "is an agent of the Israeli intelligence, the Mossad," Al Seyassah said. The paper is well-informed on Palestinian affairs.

"Husseini announced his withdrawal from the revolutionary council to protest Efranji's election. A large number of leading cadres of Fatah threatened to resign unless thorough investigation was conducted of Hussein's charges," Al Seyassah said.

The paper noted that Ghazi Al Hussein is the brother of the Palestinian West Bank activist Faisal Al Hussein, director of the Arab Studies Centre in Jerusalem. Both are sons of the late Abdul Qader Al Hussein who was killed in battles against Jewish immigrants in 1948.

Elections

Efranji was reportedly one of two new members elected to the Fatah's Revolutionary Council on Monday in Tunis. The other member was Nabil Shaath, Arafat's political advisor. The two members raised to 21 the number of the group's central committee.

"Husseini's revelations stirred far-reaching reactions inside Fatah and other Palestinian groups, with leading Fatah

members casting doubt on the authenticity of the allegations," Al Seyassah said.

The paper added that while Palestinian leader Arafat has ordered an investigation in the charges, the group's second in command, Salah Khalaf, refrained from comment and other members "withdrew their nomination of Efranji."

Husseini alleged that Efranji was recruited by the Mossad after the 1967 war, when Efranji and other Palestinian guerrillas were captured by Israeli forces while trying to carry out operations against Israeli forces near Hebron.

The daily Al Watan quoted Yasser Arafat-Rabbio, assistant secretary-general of the Democratic Front, as confirming the existence of differences inside the group.

"We don't conceal, and we are not afraid to confess that there are differences in our ranks but this does not mean that a split is imminent," said Arafat-Rabbio, a member of the PLO's executive

committee and the PLO's leading diplomat for contacts with the United States.

Issues

"Despite the existence of feuds over certain political and organisational issues, the situation can be corrected by sticking to democracy," he said, without giving details.

Earlier reports said a rift had developed between Arafat-Rabbio and the front's Secretary-General Nayer Hawatmeh over flexible positions Arafat-Rabbio had taken on the peace process.

Meanwhile, the main PLO group Fatah has asked the Soviet Union to stop all Jewish immigration to Israel.

In a statement on Tuesday, Fatah said: "The revolutionary council (of Fatah) calls on the Soviet Union, in view of the friendship and relations between us, to halt completely the campaign of forced immigration to Palestine."

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials argue that Zionist organisations are encouraging the Soviet Jews

to leave, sometimes against their will, and are offering them only one destination — Israel.

A council member told Reuters that as immigrants to Israel were free to settle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the call to Moscow had to cover all emigration, even to within the pre-1967 borders of Israel.

The PLO has previously asked the Soviet Union only to slow the exodus, help find alternative destinations for Soviet Jews and seek guarantees they would not go to occupied territories.

Moscow has said it will not change its policy of allowing Jews freedom to leave but would try to stop the migrants settling in the occupied areas where 1.7 million Palestinians live.

The Fatah statement, issued after a weekend meeting of the revolutionary council in Tunis, also blamed the United States for restricting its intake of Soviet Jews and called for an urgent Arab summit to discuss the threat.

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Rothschild dies at 79

LONDON, March 21. (AP): Lord Victor Rothschild, the millionaire banker and former British intelligence agent, has died suddenly in London, his wife said in a statement today. He was 79.

Lady Rothschild said her husband died Tuesday. She did not reveal the cause of death or any other details. Rothschild's secretary refused to say whether he had been ill or whether he died at home.

Nathaniel Mayer Victor Rothschild was born Oct 31, 1910, into the 200-year-old family descended from Jewish-German coin collectors who founded a banking dynasty.

He succeeded his uncle as the 4th baron Rothschild in 1937. He took his seat in the House of Lords, the unelected upper chamber of parliament, as a member of the Labour Party.

In 1986, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher responded to Rothschild's call to clear his name following accusations he was a Soviet spy.

Thatcher said there was no evidence he was the so-called fifth man in the infamous spy ring of Guy Burgess, Kim Philby, Donald Maclean and Anthony Blunt.

Rothschild had been a senior officer in MI5, Britain's domestic intelligence service. He was friendly in his university days Cambridge with some students who later betrayed Britain, including Blunt.

An orthodox Jew, he was awarded an honorary degree from Tel Aviv University for "the advancement of science, education and the economy of Israel" in 1971. It was followed in 1975 by an honorary degree from Jerusalem's Hebrew University.

Demand for oil will increase in E. Europe

Promising market for Opec crude

VIENNA, Austria, March 21. (AP): As Eastern Europe loosens economic ties to the Soviet Union, it will offer the Opec nations a promising market for their crude oil, analysts say.

Kuwait and other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries already are eyeing the newly independent Eastern European nations as potential customers for their products.

"They are certainly starting to become interested," said Joseph Stanislaw, managing director of Cambridge Energy Research Associates in Paris.

"It is a natural market for Opec to go into," he said. Peter Gignoux, director of the International Energy Department at Shearson Lehman Hutton in London, said: "Opec is going to be in there marketing the same as everybody else."

The Soviet Union, the world's biggest oil producer, has long been the dominant supplier of crude to its East-Block allies.

But analysts expect its tight grip on the market will ease with the expiration next year of its multi-year oil contracts with many of those nations.

In negotiating new accords,



Subroto

analysts said Moscow was likely to raise its prices and demand payment in dollars or other "hard" currency. The East European countries now pay in Soviet rubles, a currency worthless outside the East bloc, or by bartering equipment and other goods for oil.

"Once they're paying in hard currency, it's a whole new ball game," said Jan Vanous,

research director of Planecon, a Washington consulting firm. "They'll start shopping around."

Opec secretary-general Subroto said in a recent interview that a hard-currency

requirement would prompt the countries to "look for convenience — which side can supply them at the best price and quality."

"I look upon Eastern Europe as a big potential (market) for Opec," said Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi. "They are going to depend less and less on the Soviet Union."

Many predict demand for oil will increase in those countries as they convert from the centrally planned economies of their former communist rulers to the free-market models practiced in the West.

Kuwait, which has a reputation for aggressively pursuing overseas investments, also has shown considerable interest in Eastern Europe.

Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa, who recently visited Hungary, has said his country was closely watching changes in the region.

He told the Middle East Economic Survey that the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corp. would likely set up small offices in each of the capitals to monitor developments.

UAE firm wins oil concession in Aden

ABU DHABI, March 21. (AP): An oil drilling company from the United Arab Emirates has obtained the rights to explore for oil in South Yemen, the company's general manager said today.

Abu Dhabi-based Bin Ham for oil drilling acquired the rights to explore for oil in the North Saana Block, a 14,000 square kilometre (5,400 square mile) area in South Yemen, Mohammed Bin Salem said.

"A memorandum of understanding for the concession was signed last week between Bin Ham and South Yemen's Ministry of Energy and Minerals," Bin Salem said.

The UAE company has two other partners in the joint venture — Tullow Oil of Ireland and Complex (Yemen) Ltd, a subsidiary of Bin Ham Oil group, he said.

Drilling is expected to start following a seismic survey of the area which will be undertaken after the Muslim holy month of Ramadan ends in late April, Salem said.

Bin Salem voiced optimism over oil prospects in the concession area, located in the southern part of the Arabian basin bordering Saudi Arabia and Oman.

South Yemen only recently became an oil producer. The Marxist-ruled country struck oil with the help of Russian experts that will allow it soon to produce at an initial rate of 30,000 barrels per day.

One of the promising areas in the country is that straddling the border with North Yemen. The two countries are jointly exploiting the area and have granted a consortium of Russian, American, French and Kuwaiti firms the right to prospect there.

Individual oil concessions in South Yemen include one by France's Total-Compagnie Francaise des Petroles and a joint venture between Occidental of Canada and the Lebanese-owned Consolidated Contractors Co.

Razaz elected chief of AMF

ABU DHABI, March 21. (Opecna): Dr Mohammed Al Razaz of Egypt was elected chairman of the board of governors of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) on Thursday, according to sources here.

In a statement following his appointment, Al Razaz commended the work of his predecessor Mohammed Al Zarouq of Libya in carrying out the fund's operations "smoothly and effectively."

He told the 14th session of the AMF board that they were facing a number of "domestic and external challenges" which called for intensifying joint Arab action to boost economic and development potential.

Some Arab economies, he pointed out, were facing difficulties from productivity, balance of payments, foreign debt and reduced trade levels. At an international level, he asserted, Arab countries were up against "gigantic economic blocs" coupled with unstable financial and monetary markets.

The governors decided to hold their next meeting in the second half of April 1991 in Tunisia.

No solution for high inflation

Budget sends pound, shares falling

LONDON, March 21. (Reuters): Britain's financial markets reacted gloomily today to a new budget that offered no instant solution for high inflation or Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's popularity problems.

Minutes after foreign exchange dealing opened in London, the pound sterling fell to \$1.59 from its closing price on Tuesday of \$1.61.

The FTSE index of 100 leading shares on the London market quickly dropped by 29.5 points although it recovered half its early losses by midday.

Financial analysts said the measures announced on Tuesday by Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major may not have been tough enough to bring inflation under control.

"The micro-economic reforms on the savings side may have long-term benefits but the budget was a bit lacking in macro-economic measures," one

analyst said. Asked about the slide in the markets, a Thatcher aide said: "They'll come right."

In his first budget speech to parliament, Major pledged to wage a tough battle against 7.7 per cent annual inflation by maintaining high bank base interest rates, now at 15 per cent, which have sent mortgage bills soaring for many homeowners.

"I know it is frustrating for the people who find it difficult to manage at the moment with high interest rates, but the policy is beginning to squeeze inflation out of the system," he said in a television interview today.

Major attempted to sweeten the pill by offering Britons tax-exempt saving accounts which the government hopes will draw cash out of the marketplace.

But he did little to take the bite out of an unpopular "poll tax" which replaces property rates with a levy on all adults. The new

tax, championed by Thatcher, has sparked violent protests across Britain.

The Prime Minister and her Conservative Party have already been stung by opinion polls in which the opposition Labour Party is ahead by about 20 percentage points.

They also face likely defeat on Thursday in a by-election in the Central England constituency of Mid Staffordshire. Opinion polls predict Labour will capture the previously safe Conservative seat by a landslide.

But Thatcher rallied behind her chancellor today, letting it be known through the aide that Major had produced "a good, sound budget" and that he had gone "what was required under the circumstances."

In a series of radio and television interviews, Major himself warned of a long and painful fight to relieve Britain's economic woes. He declined to

predict just how high inflation would go or when interest rates would start to fall.

"There is only way to bring inflation down and that is exactly what we are doing — to create a pincer movement between a strong fiscal position and a strong monetary position to squeeze inflation out," he said.

"It is never easy," John Smith, Labour's main spokesman on the economy, said. "We are going to have a year of mortgage misery, high interest rates and inflation going up."

Several newspapers attacked the budget as timid and predicted it would probably do little to improve the Conservative government's chances at the next general election which must be called by mid-1992.

"The principal criticism of Mr Major's first budget is that it does not inflict enough ... pain," the Independent said in an editorial.

Growth rate of industrial production declines

China announces austere budget

BEIJING, March 21. (UPI): China announced today a "grim" national budget for 1990, acknowledging the country is near recession and running growing deficits but still giving the largest boost in spending to the military.

The budget message and an overall economic report were read to China's nominal legislature on the second day of its annual session and confirmed that a government austerity programme since late 1988 has pushed China to the brink of recession.

"The condition of the state budget for this year is grim," Finance Minister Wang Bingqian warned in his annual budget address to the National People's Congress, the rubber-stamp parliament.

Wang and Zou Jiahua, minister of the State Planning Commission, warned the austerity has stalled industrial output, raised joblessness to alarming levels and left the government picking up the tab through deficit-swelling subsidies.

"The growth rate of industrial production has declined too

sharply," Zou said. "The number of unemployed people in towns and cities has increased, and some urban residents have begun to experience financial difficulties."

Wang said the 1990 national budget forecasts a 10.3 per cent hike in spending to \$70.7 billion on revenues of \$68.9 billion, up 10.9 per cent. The budget deficit is estimated at \$1.9 billion.

The biggest increase goes to defence, a 15.2 per cent hike to around \$6.1 billion. The increase will only keep pace with or slightly top inflation, but is the first substantial hike in the military budget in five years.

Western diplomats said the government was repaying the military for its role in last year's crackdown on the pro-democracy movement and acknowledging its greater influence since.

The move is also designed to quiet rumblings of discontent in the ranks over the political turmoil last year and over spending that fell nearly 40 per cent in real terms in the last four years.

Although some of China's defence spending is hidden, the

military had lost considerable financial clout in recent years. Its hard currency earnings have also dropped since the end of the Iran-Iraq war, for which China was a major arms supplier.

"This is the first time in years they've come near to keeping up with inflation," said a Western military attaché.

Inflation ran officially at 17.8 per cent last year, and officials say it stabilised in recent months at around seven per cent. The State Statistics Bureau, in a new report today, said inflation dipped in the first two months of this year to 3.3 per cent.

Other budget increases in 1990 are for agriculture, up eight per cent, and education, up 10 per cent, Wang reported.

In 1989, Wang said, "the financial balance was precarious" because "state deficits have exceeded the budgeted amount."

"We must fully recognise the danger in running a deficit and start thinking in terms of a balanced budget," he said.

Expenses in 1989 were \$64 billion on revenues of \$62 billion, leaving a deficit of \$2 billion.

Wang attributed the deficit to losses from the political turmoil last year, to postponements or cancellations of unpopular new revenue measures and to unexpected expenses. But he also acknowledged huge subsidies for factories and city residents.

On Tuesday, Premier Li Peng said the government would continue but ease its austerity, which has achieved its goals of trimming record inflation and slowing headlong growth. Credit is already being loosened and more funds injected into selected sectors.

But he also indicated the invigorating free-enterprise reforms launched in the late 1970s would remain subservient to central planning and stability. The government has retreated from reform since the crackdown last June.

China has re-emphasised large state-owned industries, traditionally money losers that gobble subsidies to offset losses. The government has also been forced to give cash payouts to urban residents to compensate for inflation and lost wages.

Economic growth likely to slow down

Budget aims to contain inflation

NEW DELHI, March 21. (Reuters): Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Prasad Singh's first budget may slow economic growth but is expected to halt growing inflation, a senior finance ministry official said today.

Monday's budget for the year beginning April 1 reduced capital expenditure, imposed heavy taxes and introduced social schemes such as debt relief for farmers.

"The overall impact from the inflationary point of view would be positive. There is a link between inflation and deficit," said Finance Secretary Bimal Jalan, the ministry's top civil servant.

"A very strong effort has been made to contain the deficit."

The budget strategy is to keep inflation rise under check, Jalan told reporters, a comment which drew a sharp rebuke from opposition leaders. They said the budget would be inflationary.

The budget showed a deficit of 72.06 billion rupees (\$4.37 billion), a figure substantially lower than the 1989/90 estimate of 117.50 billion rupees (\$7.12 billion).

The lower deficit signifies the government's resolve to curtail on expenditure and minimise the effect of the budget's higher taxes on inflation, Jalan said.

Inflation rose to 7.7 per cent in 1989/90 from 5.3

per cent in the previous year and economists predict double digit inflation in 1990/91 unless government spending is curbed.

Jalan said taxes imposed to raise 19.52 billion rupees (\$1.18 billion) in new revenue may have little inflationary effect.

Asked if the budget reduction in capital spending on various schemes would slow down economic growth, Jalan said: "Yes, it will." He did not elaborate.

A pre-budget government survey painted a gloomy picture of the economy and estimated 1989/90 growth in the gross domestic product, the value of goods and services produced within the country, at four to 4.5 per cent.

The GDP grew 10.4 per cent in the previous year. The survey said India's balance of payments would be under pressure in the next five years. Singh warned that hard decisions would have to be taken to prevent India from sliding into a debt trap.

India's total debt is estimated at 690 billion rupees (\$42 billion).

Businessmen said the heavy taxes would fuel inflation.

"A scientific rise in petroleum prices and a recent hike in rail freight would add to the high cost of transport," said Associated Chambers of Commerce president Viren Shah.

Exports surge

US trade deficit climbs

WASHINGTON, March 21. (AP): The US trade deficit, bloated by a record demand for foreign oil, worsened dramatically in January, climbing to \$9.3 billion, the government said today.

The Commerce Department said the January deficit was 20.5 per cent larger than December's \$7.7-billion imbalance. Most of the deterioration came from a 44 per cent surge in oil shipments.

The January deficit was an ominous beginning for the new decade. Many analysts believe US trade woes will worsen as US dependence on foreign oil grows.

For January, exports climbed to an all-time high of \$32.1 billion, 4 per cent above the December level.

However, this gain was swamped by a 7.3 per cent surge in imports, which increased to \$41.3 billion.

The trade deficit, the difference between imports and exports, was the largest since a \$10.1-billion imbalance in November.

The US trade deficit has been improving for the past two years, falling to \$10.9 billion last year, down 8 per cent from 1988.

But many economists predic-

ted the 1990 deficit could begin rising again because of the oil bill and gains in the value of the dollar. A stronger US currency makes imports cheaper for Americans and US products less competitive on overseas markets.

The huge 44 per cent surge in oil imports did not come as a surprise, with analysts blaming the rise on December's record cold weather, which caused oil companies to import heavily in January to restock depleted supplies.

The total volume of oil, 291,278 barrels, was an all-time high, topping a previous record set in August.

Prices shot up to \$20.13 per barrel, pushing the total oil bill to \$5.86 billion, the highest total dollar amount since August 1982, a month when the volume was less but the price per barrel was higher.

The American Petroleum Institute has reported that foreign oil accounted for a record 54 per cent of consumption in January as domestic production fell to its lowest level in a quarter century.

Another factor swelling the deficit in January was a 31 per cent surge in imports of clothing,

which totalled \$3.1 billion in January.

As usual, the deficit with Japan was the largest of any country. However, at \$2.9 billion, it was at the lowest level since December 1984.

The administration of President George Bush has been pressing the Japanese to do more to purchase US exports as a way of reducing the huge annual deficit of \$49 billion that America is running with Japan.

Other big deficits included Taiwan, \$1.2 billion; China, \$800 million; Canada, \$600 million; and the countries of Western Europe, \$300 million.

Many economists are worried that the deficit will worsen even further in coming months.

Michael Evans, head of a Washington forecasting company, said he was looking for the deficit for all of 1990 to total between \$120 billion and \$125 billion, which would make it the second worst imbalance in history. The all-time high was a \$152.1-billion deficit in 1987.

"Without a weaker dollar, we are just not going to get an improvement in trade," Evans said.

Accounting conference opened

THE Jordanian Regent H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Jordan, Hassan Bin Talal inaugurated on Tuesday the meetings of the Second Arab International Accounting Conference at the Amman Plaza Hotel.

In his opening speech, the Crown Prince welcomed all the participants and pointed out the importance of the conference under the present circumstances due to the important role accounting plays in the development of economies.

The Crown Prince added that "Jordan has officially decided to recognise the qualification examinations organised by Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) as a prerequisite to practicing the profession in Jordan."

The chairman of the conference, president of ASCA, Taha Abu Ghazaleh delivered a speech in which he thanked the Crown Prince and congratulated him on the occasion of his birthday which coincided with the opening day of conference.

In the opening ceremony speeches were delivered by the representatives of the League of Arab States, the auditor-general of Jordan, president of International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), chairman of International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC), chairman of

International Auditing Practices Committee (IAPC), president of Jordanian Association of Certified Public Accountants (JACPA), all of whom pointed out to the importance of accounting in development.

This important scientific and professional conference is held concurrently with the thirty-sixth meeting of the IAPC and meeting of the IASC.

This is the first meeting held in an Arab country by these two international committees.

The Second Arab International Accounting Conference is organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and ASCA in co-operation with the Department of the Auditor-General in Jordan, the Profession's Council in Jordan and the JACPA.

The success of the First Arab International Conference which was held in Tunis in 1985, was one of the main reasons which encouraged Mr Abu Ghazaleh to organise this conference.

This conference is being attended by more than 600 delegates representing all countries.

The meetings are scheduled to continue today and will cover various topics of accounting and development presented by leaders of the profession in both the Arab world and internationally.

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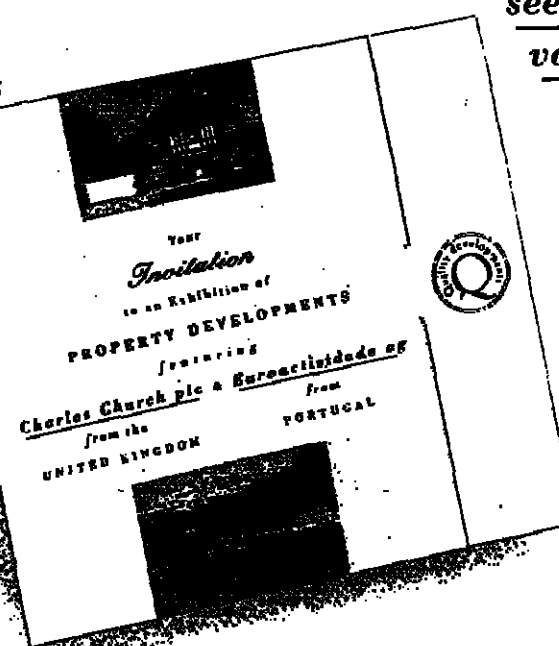
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A MAN'S true wealth is the good he does in this world
— Prophet Mohammed, (PBUH) (570-632).

Perestroika heralds woes

Youths want to earn living

By Clare Pedrick

BUDAPEST, Hungary, (WNL): In any Western European country it would hardly have made the newspapers — a group of young people, jobless and homeless, staging a demonstration to call for the right to earn a living and have a roof over their head.

In Hungary the event caused a national outcry. When the protest was shown on the state-run television later that evening it marked the first public admission of what thousands of young Hungarians already know from bitter experience: that "perestroika" has brought with it unemployment, soaring inflation and the prospect of having to sleep on a park bench.

"Those television scenes made a tremendous impact," said school-teacher Klara Heltay. "Seeing young people asking for a place to sleep was something that would never have happened in the old days. It brought home to everyone that we are experiencing poverty for the first time here in Hungary, and it's the young who are suffering the most. It's true, before we couldn't travel to the West as often as we wanted, but at least everyone had somewhere to sleep, enough to eat and some kind of job, even if it was one invented by the state."

Dismantling

The price of dismantling the obsolete communist infrastructure and moving to a free-market system from an economy artificially propped up by state subsidies is proving to be a high one for Hungary. Teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, and with the prospect of having to pay \$1.5 billion in 1990 to service its foreign debt of \$20 billion, the government has introduced the harshest austerity package ever. The plan includes the closure of 50 loss-making companies and a 20 per cent cut in state subsidies. Hungary would also reduce its exports to East bloc trading partners by 20 per cent to aim instead at Western markets that could bring much-needed hard currency.

Inflation is currently running at an official 17 per cent and is predicted to reach 20 per cent next year. Most economists agree the real figure is more likely to be about 30 per cent. The government has begun taxing everything in sight, from second-hand cars to imported bananas. Last year, Hungarians lost their first taste of income tax, with an upper limit of 55 per cent, one of the highest in Europe.

Meanwhile, unemployment could soar to 100,000 representing 5 per cent of the workforce. Most of the victims are expected to be students entering the job market. "Of course it's a drop in the ocean by Western standards, but it's a terrible shock for our young people," Heltay commented. "Unemployment is something they have never had to deal with."

Middle course

The Mercedes-buying minority is certainly well catered to in Hungary. Of all the East bloc satellite nations, this is the only one that has managed to steer a middle course between communism and consumerism, and Budapest's fashionable Vaci Street has long boasted a MacDonald's fast food restaurant as well as Adidas sports shop selling the latest in jogging and skiing equipment. A few doors down a Benetton store displays sweaters for \$60 each.

Hungarians can now watch television from Britain, France, Austria, West Germany and, in some cases, the US. Budapest's cinemas are showing "Indiana Jones" and "The Temple of Doom" while promising that "Batman" will be coming shortly. The reforms have meant other big changes, especially for the young: Military service has been cut from 18 months to one year and the number of draftees was reduced by 15 per cent.

The new generation will be the first to have the luxury of a free vote. The Hungarian Socialist Party — which shed its old communist label in the fall — has pledged to hold multi-party elections in the spring. "Even among the new opposition groups (47 of them registered for the upcoming elections) there is very little active participation from the young," said Ivan Bajomi, who teaches at Budapest's Elte University. "Here the young people are not at all like those in East Germany or Czechoslovakia, perhaps because there was less repression in Hungary. Life here was easier, at least it seemed so. There was more chance to travel and the standard of living was higher than in other East bloc countries."

Added Klara Heltay: "Under the old regime Hungarians were assured a reasonably comfortable life on the condition that they kept out of politics, and it's something that has stayed with them. Today's generation is much more interested about the prospect of listening to more Western music, or getting the pop video channel from Britain than it is about having the chance of voting."

Drug abuse

One new social phenomenon is drug abuse, a problem which will likely increase, experts say. Official estimates put the number of drug users at about 50,000. Teenagers rely mainly on glue, solvents and cough medicines while the older age bracket uses heroin, cocaine and marijuana. According to Dr Eva Istvan, who treats young addicts at Budapest's Del-Pesti Hospital, using drugs is a symptom of Hungary's economic ills, aggravated by the dramatic changes in lifestyle and resulting feelings of insecurity. "Today's young people are travelling abroad, reading foreign newspapers and watching Western TV channels and they are seeing all sorts of possibilities that they can never achieve," she said. "The youngsters I treat have lost all their values. Everything they grew up with has changed and they are extremely confused."

At present facilities are badly lacking to cope with the new problem. The Catholic church runs the country's only two rehabilitation centres — strict establishments where patients are made to work a 12-hour day and are refused visits from the outside.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1312 — The Pope abolishes the Order of the Templars.
- 1622 — About 35 Virginians are killed in first Indian massacre of European colonists in North America.
- 1765 — England's Parliament passes Stamp Act to raise revenue in American colonies.
- 1794 — US Congress passes law prohibiting American ships from supplying slaves to other countries.
- 1917 — United States becomes first nation to recognise new provisional government in Russia.
- 1945 — Arab League is founded in Cairo, Egypt.
- 1946 — Britain recognises independence of Transjordan.
- 1962 — Right wing French terrorists attack government forces in Algiers.
- 1963 — United States attempts to mediate political dispute that threatens civil war in South Vietnam.
- 1964 — Anti-Muslim violence breaks out in India.
- 1972 — More than 70 people in Belfast, Northern Ireland, are injured when bomb explodes in parking lot between city's largest hotel and a railway station.
- 1986 — South Africa's Supreme Court issues government stinging rebuff by invalidating severe restrictions imposed on black activists.
- 1987 — Chadian soldiers seize major Libyan ground and air base at Ouadi Doun in northern Chad after heavy fighting.
- 1988 — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze retreats from pledge to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan.
- 1989 — Delegates from 105 countries, meeting in Switzerland, adopt draft UN treaty to control international transport of dangerous wastes.

Could leave a scar on them

Children active in uprising

By Philippa Neave

GAZA Strip, occupied territories, (WNL) — An area 45 km long and 10 km across at its widest, completely surrounded by barbed wire is home to about 600,000 Palestinians living mostly in refugee camps: this is the Gaza Strip. With a population density of about 2,100 inhabitants per square kilometre, it is one of the most heavily populated areas of the world. It is also one of the poorest.

The Palestinians live in cramped shacks made of concrete blocks or corrugated iron, and they are not allowed to expand their shelters. The birth rate is so high that children seem to make a majority among refugees. In this hell-hole they grow up in an atmosphere of uncomform deprivation and violence.

As always, children are the first victims of war. Only this time, they are active participants, too. "One 5-year-old was beaten by the soldiers yesterday. I asked him why. He said it was because he had spat at them. I asked him why he had done that. He replied that he spat at the soldiers because the day before, Israeli troops had broken into his house, dragged his father and uncle out onto the street, beaten them and taken away their identity cards. A Palestinian without an ID cannot move from his house." This is just one example among many of what Mary Khass sees everyday; an educator, she runs 15 kindergartens in the eight refugee camps of the Gaza Strip.

Violence

In the endless spiral of violence and oppression that has now entered its third year, children are taking the lead more and more and giving momentum to the uprising (intifada). While adults often opt for non-violent forms of resistance — observing strikes, boycotting Israeli products and jobs and refusing to pay taxes — the children are on the front line, armed with stones.

Every day, when the streets of the camps and villages are not deserted because of round-the-clock curfews, confrontations explode between children and the troops. "It has become almost a reflex action. When they see a military jeep, the children throw stones," said 62-year-old Khass. The military retaliates by firing tear gas, live ammunition or the so-called "rubber bullets" (a steel bullet with a plastic coating of barely one millimetre, which has proven lethal). Also, a dozen children were killed by what is known as "marbles": a round plastic-coated steel bullet fired from a canister that shoots 18 at once. According to statistics, since the beginning of the intifada in December 1987, 193 children under 16 years of age have died, and about 27,000 have been injured. Close to 10,000 youths under 18 years of age are being held in Israeli prisons.

Of great concern to parents and educators is the psychological impact of daily violence on the children. Says Khass: "You should see their drawings. They invariably draw pictures of houses being blown up, soldiers shooting, people dying, blood; they draw the things they see every day."

Even when they play it's still war games. They make guns out of wood and cardboard and play at building a barricade and setting fire to tyres while soldiers shoot at them. "They also play at funerals, acting out the funeral of a martyr and chanting the slogans they are used to hearing," Khass says.

Occupation

Since 1967 when Israel took control of the West Bank and Gaza, the generation of Palestinians now in their early 20s has known only the occupation. The situation is even worse for young children raised as violence escalated and poverty increased. Accord-



A Palestinian child in a classroom in the occupied territories. (WNL)

ding to recent psychological research conducted by the Union of Palestinian Women, the intifada is deeply affecting children between 3 and 9 who number 400,000 and make up about 30 per cent of the Palestinian population of the occupied territories.

"Today almost every child is exposed to events which affect his or her psychological state, replacing feelings of security and stability with fear, distress and insecurity," the study says. Children suffering most are those living in refugee camps where conditions are harsher. They display greater signs of distress, anxiety and nervousness. The study also shows that in the Gaza Strip, the "hotbed" of the intifada, children appear more self-assured.

Says Samiha Khalil, the director of "In'ash Al Ushrah", the largest women's association on the West Bank which runs kindergartens as part of many other activities: "Psychologically, the children in the camps are stronger. Every day they defy the army with its jeeps and machine-guns. They know they are the heroes of the intifada and they are proud of it. We know it is our children who are liberating the Palestinian people and we are proud of them."

Naturally, educators find that controlling children used to standing up to armed soldiers is difficult, if not impossible. Speaking of children in Gaza, Khass explains: "Children under 6 in our kindergartens are aggressive, restless, confused, hyperactive and almost impossible to discipline. Increasing numbers are traumatised and withdraw completely after seeing a parent killed or beaten, or losing a sibling. Khass adds: They refuse to speak or eat, they wake up screaming in the middle of the night or wet their bed."

"These children need proper psychiatric treatment and there are no such facilities," Khass says. "I am trying to raise funds for a project to bring a

professional who has lived and worked in a crisis area to train at least 10 psychology graduates to treat these kids."

The feeling of security all children need to grow up as well-balanced adults does not exist here. "Experience life in a camp for just one night and you'll realise that kids can't even get away from it in their sleep. They are woken up by screaming, banging, ugly noises when houses are raided. It happens all the time. The soldiers run along the roofs and burst into homes in the middle of the night."

Treating

A doctor who works at a clinic run by the United Nations Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) in Arab camp in the Gaza Strip commented: "Before the intifada, my work was just routine, treating kids with infectious and the like, but now cases of psychiatric and neurological diseases are increasing, as are cases of stress-induced diabetes. Another thing is that we have more and more kids suffering from chronic difficulties in breathing because of excessive exposure to tear gas."

Not even schools can offer a semblance of normality to Palestinian youths. All facilities, from kindergartens right through universities have been subject to closure by the Israeli authorities, in particular on the West Bank where over 300,000 children have lost two whole school years and are now embarking on their third year of forced holidays.

In Gaza where schools have been operating, albeit in a sporadic fashion, teachers struggle to offer continuity in the programmes and deal with an overloaded system. Of the 148 schools run by UNRWA in Gaza, most run two or even three shifts of classes a day. Said an English teacher in Rafah camp: "With classes of 45 to 47 pupils, we have a lot of trouble getting children to settle down and concentrate."

Letters to the editor

A real headache

SIR: It is regrettable that the Embassy of Pakistan in Kuwait should have issued a press release criticising the statements made by Dr Najma Heptulla, deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha, during her recent visit to Kuwait. Dr Heptulla visited Kuwait as a special envoy of the prime minister of India.

The Kashmir issue has a long history, as it began over 40 years ago. Shortly after Indian independence, the princely states in the country (including Jammu and Kashmir) signed Instruments of Accession to the Indian Union. The legality of the accession by Jammu and Kashmir to India has never been challenged. India took this question to the UN in 1948 in order to have Pakistan vacate its aggression. The resolutions adopted by the UN were conditional upon Pakistan fulfilling certain obligations. The first and only resolution accepted by India is the UNCIP Resolution of Aug 13, 1948. Part IIA of the resolution refers to Pakistan's agreement to withdraw its troops from Jammu and Kashmir. Part IIB of the resolution lays down the modalities for the total withdrawal of Pakistani forces from Jammu and Kashmir. A subsequent resolution adopted on Jan 5, 1949 called for a plebiscite subject to the completion of the ceasefire and truce arrangements of Part I and II of the Aug 13, 1948 resolution. Since Pakistan did not fulfil its obligations, the question of plebiscite did not arise. The UN Resolutions are obviously not of relevance any longer as over 40 years have elapsed and the entire political scenario in the Indian subcontinent has changed.

Meanwhile, the people of Jammu and Kashmir like people in the rest of India have been exercising their voting rights and electing their leaders to not only the state legislature, but also to the Union Parliament of India. The fact that members from Jammu and Kashmir are in the Parliament shows that the people of Jammu and Kashmir regard themselves as Indians. For, otherwise, why should they send their representatives to the central legislature?

The Simla Agreement of 1972 superseded all the UN resolutions. This agreement, inter alia, stated that neither India nor Pakistan would seek to alter the Line of Control (in Kashmir) of Dec 17, 1971 unilaterally, irrespective of mutual differences and the legal interpretations. The various issues between India and Pakistan including the final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir were to be discussed by their respective heads of government. The Line of Control of 1972 is quite different from the one arrived at in 1949 after the ceasefire.

The Simla Agreement also stipulates that neither country will interfere in each other's internal affairs, and will not indulge in hostile propaganda, and all disputes are to be resolved bilaterally and peacefully.

India is anxious to improve relations with all its neighbours and has also extended a hand of friendship to Pakistan. India is willing to discuss all issues with Pakistan. Your readers should know that India has a Muslim population of approximately 120 million who enjoy equal rights and are to be found in all regions of the country. The Muslims in Kashmir are only about 4 million in number. In fact, there are more Muslims in India than the entire population of Pakistan. The Muslim community has been making significant contributions to the socio-economic and cultural life of India. Many eminent persons from this community have occupied positions of great importance, including that of president of India, vice-president of India, chief justice of India, Union ministers holding very important portfolios such as foreign affairs, home affairs, agriculture, education etc., governor of states, chief ministers of states, senior positions in the armed forces including chief of air staff, generals etc., ambassadors

and members of national and state legislatures etc.

The contention of the Pakistan Embassy is that a dispute exists over Jammu and Kashmir. This is true. The dispute that needs resolution is the withdrawal of Pakistani troops from the territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Simla Agreement provides a framework for resolving this matter.

The press release issued by the Embassy of Pakistan quotes some Indian print media. These quotations are selectively taken out of context. It is recognised worldwide that India has a very free press and newspapers tend to be critical of the government, as is usual in democracies.

Abdul Khalique,
First Secretary (Information),
Embassy of the Republic of India.

Resolution anniversary

SIR: The sublime recapitulation of a certain historical event invokes subtle feelings of human fraternity, camaraderie, loyalty to one's country and ideals, and a retrospective reflection on fateful past occurrences. It also offers an opportunity to contemplate in prospect. Nevertheless, there also takes place an over-zealous emotional response to the current problems generally expressed through rhetorical orientation and a profound lack of authentic recourse to the resolution of issues. Words are admirable indicators of aspirations; application of emphatic sustenance to make things work efficaciously is quite another matter.

Pakistan has much to celebrate on the 23rd of March. Indeed, Pakistan has come a long way, and its national vitality to seek an egalitarian society has produced visible signs of restoring the democratic edifice. And yet, the enormity of issues faced by this nation postulates precarious phenomena requiring exigency and expedient reorientation of strategic and tactical thinking, particularly so in dealing with the internal conditions of the country and the government's professed response for their resolutions.

Pakistani democracy is ever-vigilant now, to make it truly efflorescent, effective egalitarian reforms have to be carried out in the conceptual parameters of our understanding of contemporary neo-traditional democratic notions. One such modern concept targeted at general public welfare is advocated by the renowned Soviet sociologist Tatyana Zaslavskaya.

Dr Zaslavskaya contends that a true test of a progressive public welfare state is not indicated by the extent of the scientific advancement it makes. Science, in itself, is based on the discovery of basic elements of physical phenomena; once such an understanding of phenomena is reached, then a meticulous application of research and experimentation can lead to boundless progress in that field. Consequently, scientific progress is not the vital issue of the contemporary times. It gives resources it will take place, as it is within the reach of any society. It is a simplistic matter. Compared to this is the complex task of human management. The true test of any modern democracy is the extent to which it has been able to develop an effective human management system for the general masses.

Notion

What does this notion mean in terms of policy formulation? It means that priorities will have to be redefined in the national reconstruction edifice and a problematic resolution management approach will have to be adopted by contemporary democratic political systems. This would entail a great deal of decentralisation at the various levels of political infrastructure; would mean a targeted realisation of a greater participation of the public in the decision-making

processes. For Pakistan, it would mean the collapse of the present political and bureaucratic infrastructure of centralised controls. It would mean an acknowledgement of the fact that the public at large is capable of handling their own affairs — and the local public will have to be trusted with the management of their own community affairs.

At another level, the human-management approach model emphasises the construction of a socio-economic political psycho-cultural societal infrastructure based purely on the public welfare premises. A greater effort will have to be exerted in the field of education, particularly in applied education. Hospitals, housing, schools, communications, community centres, and recreational, cultural and sports activities will have to be expanded. The achievement of full employment by national planning will have to be initiated. Improvement in public health and nutrition will have to occur. A parallel model of centralised planning and decentralised structures will have to be formed.

Since independence, Pakistan has largely espoused the legalistic-administrative approach in its various political arena. The accepted notions within the governing elite have been that stability is the priority goal, maintenance of rules (outdated laws and administrative set-up) is the second priority objective, and the preservation of a large and powerful government at the helm of national affairs is fundamental. Public participation and government accountability has not been on the priority agenda. Added to this legalistic-administrative approach is a basic erroneous conceptual premise: it has been maintained in Pakistan that the reform of individuals, coming from within by Islamic teachings, will eventually reform the whole of the society from all its ailments and drawbacks.

The contemporary management approach of modern progressive political systems does not subscribe to the above-mentioned conceptual thesis. It maintains that societal problems are not caused by the intrinsically unreformed and corrupt masses; instead, the masses are the victims of the political, legal and economic institutions of a political system that has inflicted all sorts of deprivations on people and has gone on unreformed for a considerably long period of time. Reforms of a society must begin with the reforms of the institutional super-structure of the political process rather than the other way around.

Validity
Indeed, these are diverse perspectives. The validity of a view-point can only be established if it is tested within its own prescribed conditions. It seems a valid assumption, based on years of observation, that the "individual reform" thesis has failed in Pakistan. Perhaps it is an appropriate time to hold governments and institutional infrastructure power elites responsible for failures to enact appropriate institutional changes, and thereby create conditions for the reforms of Pakistani society.

At least, on this auspicious occasion of March 23, Pakistani society should instigate a debate on the validity of the established institutional structures in Pakistan, if not espouse a completely new orientation about them. Indeed, the public should be interested to know what has gone wrong for so long.

Dr. Haider Mehdi,
Shuwalik.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Yugoslavia on brink of breakup

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (CSM): The impossible — the breakup of Yugoslavia — no longer seems impossible.

From the south in Kosovo to the north here in Slovenia, Yugoslavia is rocked by ethnic strife and conflicts among the federation's six republics and two semi-autonomous provinces.

Last month the Federal Communist Party Congress broke up in disarray when the delegation from Slovenia, the richest and most Western of the republics, walked out in protest over the party's unwillingness to agree to sweeping democratic reforms. And recently here in Ljubljana, the Slovenian Communist Party formally declared its independence.

"Even a year ago, I never believed that Yugoslavia would come apart, but now I have started to believe that is possible," says former veteran journalist Andrej Novak, who now works in a publishing company in the Slovenian capital.

Party

Ever since World War II, when the Communist Party took power, the party has been considered, together with the army, the unifying force in Yugoslavia. Now the federal party no longer exists, according to the Slovenes, who urge the stable transformation of Slovenia and Yugoslavia into a democratic European state.

Only by offering greater autonomy in a looser Yugoslav confederation can the country become stronger and remain unified, the Slovenes say.

"The threat of disintegration is a reality and should be taken seriously," says Slovenian Communist Party leader Ciril Ribicic, whose party changed its name to the Party of Democratic Reforms, thereby starting the final preparation for the free elections in Slovenia in April.

For Ribicic, the federal party of today is "unacceptable," and instead of reviving it, he sees, as more realistic, a split into a reformist and an orthodox party, led by Slovenia's President and Serbia respectively.

In these spring-like days in Ljubljana, with its baroque architecture and its people strolling along the tranquil Ljubljana River, there is no sense of crisis. The Slovenes live well up the close to Austria and Italy, far away from the other Yugoslav republics down on the Balkans.

The 2.1 million Slovenes, out of 23 million Yugoslavs, produce almost 20 per cent of the gross national product and nearly 30 per cent of its exports. In a recent poll, 80 per cent among them Ribicic himself — expressed the conviction that Slovenia could survive as an independent nation, if necessary.

"Yes, Slovenia can exist independently. Why not?" asks Stanislav Valant, executive vice-president of Ljubljanska Banka in his 12th-floor office overlooking the city. "But independence is not an ultimate idea. However, we need a new type of federation."

Nonetheless, there is a definite serious mood in Slovenia, especially after the announcement last November of an economic blockade by Serbia, Yugoslavia's largest republic. People here talk about their patience wearing thin over the blockade.

The Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, wants to take over and create a greater Serbia, "on the ashes of Yugoslavia," says one Slovene. "We are not ready for compromises anymore," says Joza Pucnik, the Social Democratic leader of Demos, the new opposition coalition in Slovenia.

The economic blockade has not had any drastic effects yet on the Slovenian economy, although some companies are having problems and have had to resort to temporary closings and reductions of shifts. For some companies it will be tough, says Valant at Ljubljanska Banka, the nation's second-largest bank. Serbia has stopped paying its bills, amounting to \$200 million. And in the long run, Valant thinks, these companies will be reluctant to do business with Serbia. That means that Slovenia will turn Westward even more.

The blockade was introduced by Serbia after the Slovenes banned a Serbian rally in Ljubljana.

Blockade

But the blockade had been planned for a long time, the Slovenes say. "Our economic figures were just too good," says Stanislav Valant.

Attempts are now being made to eliminate the blockade, which according to official figures involve 230 companies in Serbia have broken off contact with 207 companies in Slovenia.

Real Western-style democracy is not far off in Slovenia. In April, the first free elections since the war will be held. An assortment of opposition parties are contesting the decades of communist rule. For the Slovenian Communist Party, under its new name of Party of Democratic Reforms and under the slogan "Europe Now," the fight is about political survival. The party has lost members in recent years, and if it had not been ready to change, it would disappear from the political scene, according to Ribicic.

It is in this light that the Slovenes' defiance of the central authorities in Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital, should be seen. By demanding reforms at an early stage, Ribicic hopes the party can attain the voters' credibility. Still, few think it will get more than 25 per cent of the vote.

Meanwhile, the opposition coalition Demos, smells victory — between 55 and 65 per cent of the vote, according to its leader Pucnik, who was in prison seven years for criticizing the communists before leaving for West Germany. He returned to Slovenia last fall.

Quote me

"I would ask Carl Lewis and Linford Christie not to compete in 'superstars' so that Johnson does not enjoy the weight of all the London Times quoted Sir Arthur Gold chairman of the British Olympic Association as saying.

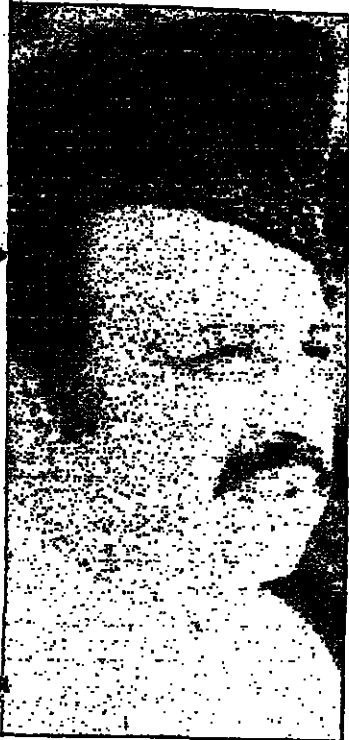
"Gen. Avril left Port-au-Prince at 6 am with four other passengers on a US military flight, a C-141. They arrived at Homestead Air Force Base (in Florida) at 8 am." — US State Department spokesman confirming that Haitian leader Avril is in the US.

"We don't think there will be any problems before and during the match. But it will be important at the end, when possible contacts between the opposing fans." — A Dutch Soccer Federation official on probability of segregating Dutch and English fans during the World Cup in June.

PAKISTAN DAY

GOLDEN JUBILEE

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT



Ambassador Zahid Said

On the right track

ON this day, the fiftieth anniversary of the Pakistan Resolution, let us, as Pakistanis, resolve to uphold and nurture, individually and collectively the values that are the raison d'être for the creation of Pakistan.

There is no denying the fact that at every critical juncture in our history the strong will of our people and their attachment to lofty ideals carried them through difficult times. The same perseverance and fortitude will be required to consolidate the nation and make Pakistan a prosperous state in the future.

Pakistan achieved freedom only after a long and difficult struggle through countless sacrifices. I would, therefore, like to remind the younger generation that now it is their duty to achieve the ideals and freedom envisioned during the freedom struggle. Rarely has such an onerous responsibility devolved on one section of the society as now rests on the shoulders of the educated youth of our country.

Quaid-e-Azam envisaged unfettered democracy for the country, based on the principles of Islamic social justice and it is a matter of great pride for us that Pakistan has adopted a democratic order, under the able guidance of our present leaders.

I strongly believe that the present government has set the right priorities for the development of Pakistan. There is special emphasis in advancing education and improving social services. These measures are likely to have long-term benefits for our society. There is also an extensive peoples work programme which on implementation will contribute to the welfare of the masses. As the government has set the correct priorities for the nation, it deserves their valuable support.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Jabar Al Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, for the hospitality extended to our citizens, residing in Kuwait, and also thank them for their kind messages of facilitation to our government on this auspicious occasion.

Message of Pakistan Ambassador, Zahid Said



Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan

"A nation would not be found wanting either in will or in ability to preserve and develop what the country's founding fathers have bequeathed to us and leave it in a better, healthier and happier shape for generations to come."

'Let us rededicate to ideals of democracy'

Message of the prime minister of Pakistan

The following is the Pakistan Day message from the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto:

"ON this day 50 years ago the Muslims of British India came to the conclusion that they would not stay in India under one government and they resolved to struggle for a homeland of their own. This dream was realised seven years later through the courage and indomitable will of our great leader, Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Let me remind you today of what the Founder of Nation said in March, 1948.

"We demanded Pakistan, we struggled for it, we achieved it so that physically as well as spiritually we are free to conduct our affairs according to our traditions and genius. Brotherhood, equality and fraternity of man — these are all the basic points of our religion, culture and civilisation. And we fought for Pakistan because there was a danger of denial of these human rights. After all, the story of Pakistan, its struggle and its achievement is the story of great human ideals struggling to survive in the face of odds and difficulties. The sooner we adjust ourselves to new faces, the sooner our mind's eye is capable of piercing through the horizons to see the limitless possibilities of our state and of our nation, the better for Pakistan. Then and then alone it would be possible for each one of us to realise the great ideals of human progress of social justice, of equality and of fraternity which, on the one hand, constitute the basic causes of the birth of Pakistan and also the limitless possibilities of evolving an ideal social structure in our state."

"These then are the ideals towards which we must strive to preserve, protect and defend the legacy of the Quaid. Let us all rededicate ourselves to the ideals of democracy, peace, social justice and an ability to fashion our lives according to our values. Let us on this day pledge to keep our covenant with the Quaid by closing our ranks and transforming the country into a modern welfare state."

"May Allah bless us in our efforts and enable us to prove ourselves worthy inheritors of the homeland bequeathed to us by the Quaid."

Pakistan Pindabad



Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto

Pakistan — the vision takes shape

By Syed Ghulam Jilane

IT was December 1930 Dr Sir Mohammad Iqbal was delivering his presidential speech at the annual session of the All-India Muslim League at Allahabad.

It was the same Iqbal, who in his stirring lyrics had been singing the glories of India's past, of her heroes and her payage, and preaching communal harmony. In fact, his inimitable song, "Sarey jahan se achha Hindustan hamara," (Our India is better than the entire world) is still sung in India with gusto.

But, here, at the public meeting, he was speaking in an entirely different tone. A peculiar change seemed to have come over him. Today he was speaking in terms of Muslims and Hindus. Said he: "India is a land of religious and racial variety. Add to this the general economic inferiority of the Muslims, their enormous debt..." And, for the solution of that economic problem, he demanded "Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sindh and Baluchistan be amalgamated into a single state."

Yet, when he was adumbrating the theory of a single Muslim state, Iqbal was not indulging in the fantasy of a poet or a philosopher. He was speaking with full confidence in himself, as a lawyer and a politician. So convinced, indeed, was he of the soundness of his postulate that he asserted: "The formation of a consolidated west Indian Muslim state appears to be the final destiny of the Muslims, at least, of north western India." This was Iqbal's solution to the constitutional controversy raging between Hindus and Muslims on a future constitution of India, on the issue of joint versus separate electorate. Hindus wanted joint Muslims, separate.

While Iqbal was speaking at home about a single Muslim state, Jinnah was pleading the case of the Indian Muslims at the



President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto taking salute at the Pakistan Day parade in Rawalpindi last year on March 23.

First Round Table Conference in London (Nov 12, 1930 - Jan 19, 1931), and succeeded in having a resolution unanimously adopted admitting Muslim claims of adequate safeguards to be incorporated in a future constitution of India.

Change

An obvious change had come over Jinnah, too. Like Iqbal, he too had been a great believer in communal unity. Unlike Iqbal, he was active. He was in the Indian National Congress. His efforts had brought about the famous accord between the Hindus and Muslims, known as the Lucknow Pact and, he was acclaimed as a "messenger of unity," while Congress High Command member and a famous poetess, Ms Sarojini Naidu even gave him the sobriquet of "Mazzini."

But the history of religious intolerance and intransigence and their own bitter experience in dealing with the leadership of the Indian National Congress had disillusioned and frustrated both Iqbal and Jinnah, and had wrought this total change of posture.

For the Muslims the tocsin had been sounded by the end of the last century, by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. Their response came in the shape of the All-India Muslim League, founded in 1906. But efforts by political leaders like Mohammad Ali Jinnah to evolve a united, democratic India continued leading to the Lucknow Pact in 1916, mentioned before.

Element

Meanwhile, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi returning from South Africa introduced the spiritual element in Indian politics. Jinnah, an ardent Congressite, quite in 1920 when Gandhi started the non-co-operation movement against the government.

But, what Jinnah termed "parting of the ways" came ultimately in 1928. Though disillusioned and frustrated, he had yet entertained a hope of unity. At the All-Parties Convention, in 1928, he put forth certain amendments to the Nehru Report on the Draft Constitution for India. The amendments were calculated to

safeguard the fundamental politico-economic interests of the Muslims. But for the solitary support of liberal Sir T.B. Sapru, Jinnah's amendments were rejected by the preponderant participants.

On January 26, 1930, the Congress declared "purna swaraj," (full sovereignty). From March 5, Gandhi started civil disobedience movement. Congress boycotted the First Round Table Conference (RTC). Subsequent negotiations between the viceroy, Lord Irwin and the Congress led to the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of March 4, 1931. Gandhi called off the civil disobedience and later attended the second RTC (September-December 1931), at which Gandhi questioned the representative character of the delegates, and the conference ended without any progress, on the note that India's constitutional would depend on communal settlement.

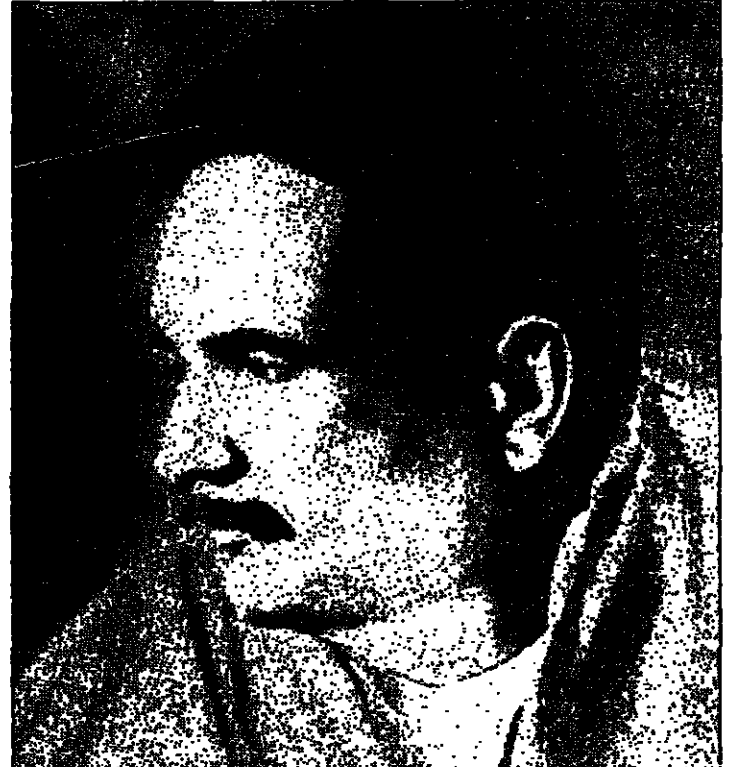
Recognising the genuineness of the communal question, the British government announced the Communal Award on

August 4, 1932, allowing separate electorate for Muslims, Europeans and Sikhs, as also Indian Christians. Baulked, the Congress boycotted the Third RTC (November-December 1932) and re-started civil disobedience in August 1933.

Meanwhile, in March 1933, the British government had published a White Paper presenting draft proposals for the constitution of India. And the Indian Constitution Bill formulated by the Parliamentary Select Committee, after royal assent on August 1935, became the Government of India Act, 1935.

But the Congress continued to reject the Muslim claim to a separate political entity. Said Nehru in 1935 "There are only two parties in the sub-continent; the British Government and the Indian National Congress." Rejoined Jinnah: "There is also a third party. We are not going to be dictated by anybody."

In the general elections under the Government of India Act, 1935, held in 1937, Congress was returned in majority in six provinces, and formed



Dr Allama Mohammad Iqbal

exclusively Congress governments, refusing to accept any Muslim League as a minister. Jinnah meanwhile stuck to his demand that the All-India Muslim League should be recognised as the "sole authoritative and representative political organisation of the Muslims of India."

On September 3, 1939 came World War II. Viceroy Lord Linlithgow agreed to expand his Executive Council if Congress made an understanding with Jinnah. On September 26, Gandhi advised the viceroy to ignore the League. Ultimately, the Congress ministries resigned on October 31, 1939. Jinnah again attempted reconciliation with the Congress on certain conditions to safeguard Muslim interests. Failing, he declared

"Deliverance Day" (December 22, 1939).

Time had now come for the Muslims to decide their destiny. Iqbal was dead but in 10 years his vision had assumed definite contours. So that on March 23, 1940, when Bengal's A.K. Fazlul Haque moved the resolution demanding an independent Muslim state, the sea of humans assembled at Lahore's Minto Park from all over India, responded with a resounding roar of *una voce* approval. Pakistan's foundation had been laid.

And, less than seven years from that historic date, Pakistan emerged on the world map as an independent, Muslim state, on August 14, 1947, with Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah as its first governor-general. Iqbal had been vindicated.

شمع انٹرنیشنل ٹریڈنگ کمپنی کی جانب سے حکومت پاکستان بنجاب سیر پاکستان افسران سفارت خانہ اور تمام پاکستانیوں کو دیوم جمہوریہ پاکستان کی گولڈن جوبلی مبارک ہو

کویت میں سب سے پہلے باد شمع انٹرنیشنل سے پیش کرتے ہیں

پاکستان کی مشہور ترین اور سب سے زیادہ مقبول شمع

میر شمع (پاکستان)

میر شمع کے شمعوں کی قیمتیں (دلہ)

اپنے دفاتر، دکانوں اور گھروں کو بہترین شمعوں سے سجائیں

میر شمع کے شمعوں کی قیمتیں (دلہ)

میر شمع کے شمعوں کی قیمتیں (دلہ)

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احمد شمع انڈسٹریز

کراچی کے آؤٹریٹ پلانٹ پر

تیار کردہ

نوروز، قندیل، شہر، اور دیگر شمعیں

احمد شمع انڈسٹریز

ہر قسم کے مشروبات

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شمع برلنڈ باسٹے چاول

پاکستان کے کرائی میں

نمبر 1

اصولت اور خوشبودار

باسمتی چاول

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پاکستان میں سب سے زیادہ برآمد اور فروخت ہونے والے

مہران کے مصالحہ جات

آٹومینٹک پلانٹ پر محفوظ شمعیں

میر شمع (پاکستان)

میر شمع کے شمعوں کی قیمتیں (دلہ)

میر شمع کے شمعوں کی قیمتیں (دلہ)

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By M. Rafique Afzal

MARCH 23 has a special significance in the recent history of South Asia and the Muslim world. Fifty years ago on this date the Muslims of the South Asian subcontinent demanded a separate homeland for themselves in those regions of the subcontinent where they had numerical majority. This demand for a separate state came to be known as the "Pakistan demand". Its uniqueness was in its novelty, in the sense that no region or state with that nomenclature had existed in history. However, its origins lay in the growth and development of the Muslim community in the subcontinent.

Muslims came into contact with the South Asian subcontinent soon after the rise of Islam as traders and missionaries. They established their first government in the areas of the present-day Pakistan by conquest in the beginning of the eighth century. From here they gradually extended their power to other parts of the subcontinent and remained the dominant force till the eighteenth century. Their numerical strength grew by waves of migrations from Central Asia and other parts of the Muslim world and by conversion of non-Muslims to Islam.

The South Asian Muslims made rich contribution to Islamic culture and world civilisation in such fields as painting, architecture, music, administration and other branches of learning. Islamic culture in the subcontinent developed quite distinct features. Unlike other cultures that came into contact with the Hindu civilisation and were completely merged into it, the Islamic culture maintained its independent personality. Islamic and Hindu cultures co-existed over centuries of their contact. Their inherent separateness lay dormant during the long period of Muslim rule and all attempts at their assimilation into each other left behind memories of bitterness and mutual hostility.

Focus

The British colonial rule ushered in a new era in the subcontinent. It brought into sharp focus the inherent conflicts in the two cultures. The erroneous impression of Hindu-Muslim unity created by a few rare instances of united resistance to colonial rule was always short-lived and transitory. The two communities perceived the new



Quaid-i-Azam and Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan pose with Khan Saadullah Khan and Nawab of Mamdot at the Lahore session in March, 1940.



Choudhry Khaliq-uz-Zaman speaking at the Pakistan session of Muslim League on April 22, 1940. Liaquat Ali Khan and Mian Bashir Ahmad are also pictured.

The day the idea of Pakistan was born

realities of British colonialism differently: for the Hindus it was merely a change of rulers to which they easily adjusted but for the Muslims who were suppressed, the change was hard to digest for it transformed their status from that of rulers to a subject race. These conflicting perceptions contributed to Muslims thinking on independent lines.

Muslim response to British colonialism itself was not a unified struggle. After the abortive War of Independence in 1857-58, one section of the Muslim community stuck to the policy of armed resistance against the British in the northwest, near the borders of Afghanistan, and gained prominence whenever there was the remotest possibility of freedom from British rule. Another section went into seclusion discarding armed struggle and Western education, and devoted themselves to religious instruction and endeavoured to preserve the religious and spiritual identity of the Muslims. Other Muslims reconciled to the changed circumstances.

They followed the advice of Sir Sayed Ahmad Khan in support of the British system and began to acquire Western education and learning. The educational

and other institutions that he established at Aligarh served as model which was copied by Muslims in every part of the subcontinent. The Aligarh movement which meant the policies emanating from the institutions established by Sir Sayed in the educational and social fields moulded Islamic culture in a new light and made the Muslims conscious of their distinct identity.

Future

When the British introduced the system of representative institutions in the subcontinent, the Muslims began to realise its implications for their future. They had not developed educationally, socially, economically and politically as rapidly as the Hindus. This underdevelopment in every field and their numerical minority vis-a-vis the Hindus persuaded them to explore and devise novel mechanism in politics to protect their rights and cultural identity.

They established their own separate political organisation, the All-India Muslim League, in opposition to the Hindu-dominated Indian National Congress, and demanded a system of separate electorates for their representation in the newly introduced democratic institutions. The British as well as the



A view of the crowd of half a million men and women who heard their leaders.

Congress accepted their demand for separate electorates. This mode of separate representation, the Muslim response to developments in the Muslim world especially the threat to the integrity of the Ottoman caliphate and the Muslim holy places during the First World War for which they launched a broad-based movement in post-war era, and the emergence of militant Hindu revivalism strengthened their Islamic identity.

Luckily, the Muslims enjoyed

numerical majorities in the northwest and the northeast of the South Asian subcontinent. Initially, they struggled to preserve their majorities in the provinces of these regions in any future constitutional setup and advocated a weak federal structure with limited powers vested in the centre and the provinces enjoying maximum possible autonomy. Hindu communal organisations opposed the basic demands of the Muslims from every platform. In the 1920s and

1930s, several attempts were made to evolve an agreed constitutional formula for the settlement of the Hindu-Muslim problem. The same story, i.e. lack of accommodation and tolerance on the part of the Hindu leadership, was repeated everywhere; whether it was the question of Hindu-Muslim unity talks of the 1920s, or the drafting of the Nehru Report and the debate on its recommendations at the All Parties National Convention (1928), or the settlement of the constitutional problem at the Round Table Conferences in London (1930-32).

Elements

The Muslims experienced the consequences of democratic, which in other words meant Hindu majority, rule in the Hindu majority provinces under Congress rule in the 1930s. There was a systematic attempt at the governmental level to obliterate all the elements of Muslim cultural identity. More than anything else this factor affirmed the long-simmering Muslim nationalism.

The concept of a separate Muslim state in the South Asian subcontinent was not a new phenomenon. Its possible establishment had been visualised by many a perceptive observer of the South Asian political scene

since the middle of the nineteenth century. These observers included Muslim scholars and thinkers, Hindu politicians and British administrators. The frequency of proposals for the partitioning of the subcontinent on communal lines or the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims increased in the 1920s when Hindu-Muslim antagonism heightened and no agreed constitutional formula could be evolved.

Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the great Muslim poet-philosopher, hinted at its possibility and gave philosophical basis to the idea for the first time from the platform of an all-India organisation in his presidential address to the Muslim League in 1930. Inspired by his pronouncements, Chaudhri Rahmat Ali and a few other Muslim students at Cambridge coined the word "Pakistan". After this there was a flood of literature, arguing and elaborating plans for a Muslim state.

The All-India Muslim League had been the main organisation of the Muslims negotiating with the British and the Congress for their political and constitutional rights. Its fortunes fluctuated over the years; sometimes it was overshadowed by other Muslim parties for short duration, but

after every such period of eclipse it emerged with renewed vigour to remain the mainstream Muslim politics. In the 1930s began its final phase in the dynamic leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876-1948) who was soon to be known as the Quaid-i-Azam (Great Leader) for his gifts of organisation and leadership. It shed of elitist character and opened doors to ordinary Muslims brought within its fold Muslim of every school of thought, those who had remained aloof from politics. It exploited every event and issue of Muslim concern to make the Muslims conscious of the crisis confronting them. The attitude and policy of the Congress, which were unfortunately steeped in arrogance and intolerance facilitated its growth and welded the Muslims into a bloc.

Caution

The All-India Muslim League made no hasty moves. All actions were marked by caution and calculation. After it reorganised itself and cultivated consciousness among Muslims of their separatist nationhood, it set out to evaluate the schemes of partition that had been published by Muslim scholars and thinkers. The results of these deliberations embodied in the historic resolution that the All-India Muslim League adopted at its Lahore session on March 23, 1940, which called for the establishment of a separate Muslim state in Muslim majority areas of northwest and northeast of subcontinent.

The Lahore Resolution, subsequently came to be commonly referred to as the "Pakistan Resolution". The achievement of Pakistan became the stated goal of South Asian Muslims. The All-India Muslim League struggled to realise it. The Congress, British, the Congress and nationalist Muslims who opposed it, the "Pakistan" demand, to achieve this ideal, this struggle it was transformed into a Muslim national liberation movement. The credit for the establishment of Pakistan within a short span of seven years goes to the charismatic leadership of the Quaid-i-Azam, the national character of the All-India Muslim League and the spontaneous response of the Muslim masses to the Pakistan demand.

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Tourism

A paradise for tourists

By Asghar Ahmad

PAKISTAN'S proximity to the Middle East may lead some to think that it is typographically similar to that region. Quite the contrary. There are beaches and deserts in Pakistan, but largely it is an alluvial and fertile plain rising into higher altitudes, and in the north and north-west of the country the area called the northern region, is simply out of this world! It is unique in every respect.

A great mountaineer, Eric Shipton, who lies buried in the perpetual snows of Pakistan's northern region, once wrote: "To describe this region was to indulge in superlatives, for everywhere you look, are the highest, the longest and the largest mountains, glaciers and rivers in the world."

Highest mountains: He was right. It is the meeting place of the world's three greatest mountain ranges: the Himalayas, the Hindu Kush and the Karakoram. The result is that within a range of a few square miles you come across the biggest conglomeration of some of the world's highest peaks, including the K-2 (8,611 metres), second only to the Everest. Other peaks exceeding 8,000 metres, are: Nanga Parbat (8,126 metres), Gasherbrum I (8,068 metres), Broad Peak (8,047 metres), and Gasherbrum II (8,035 metres). In this area there are 68 peaks of more than 7,000 metres (22,966 feet) heights.

Between the mountains lie heavenly valleys of pine, spruce, fir, poplar, willow, and other trees. In the valleys of the Karakoram, the Hindu Kush and the Himalayas, the climate is temperate and invigorating. These valleys, for the most part, have been compared to the mythological Shangri La. Each has its own charm, scenic beauty and potential for outdoor sports.

The northern region is also the world's most glaciated area outside the Arctic and the Antarctic. The Siachen Glacier is about 74 kilometres long and largest glacier in the area. Others include

the Baltoro, Biafo, Hispar and the Batura, each of which is 58 kilometres long.

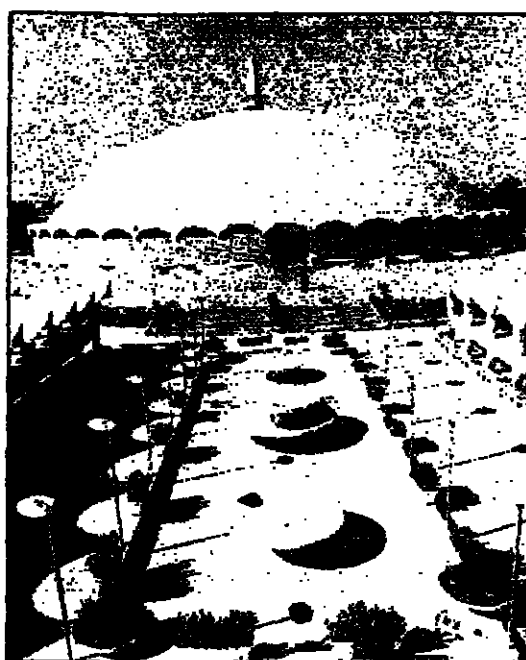
Karakoram Highway: The Karakoram Highway (KKH) hit the world headlines when it was completed about 13 years ago. It connects Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, with the Xinjiang province of China. In 1986 again KKH was in the news. The occasion was when the Khunjerab Pass, where the highway ends, 16,000 feet high, in the Karakoram range and enters China, was opened for foreign tourists. That summer, therefore, a sizeable traffic on the road to China was witnessed.

The planning and building of the Karakoram highway took 20 years. It is a tribute to the skills and spirit of the engineers of the Pakistan army who, assisted by their Chinese counterparts, built the road in a terrain which is breath-taking and skirts peaks that are crowned with gleaming snow throughout the year. The road has 24 major bridges and 70 smaller ones. Four hundred and five people lost their lives in its completion.

The preparations for opening



Domes of the Badshahi Mosque, Lahore.



Masjid-e-Tuba, Karachi.

of the Khunjerab Pass for foreigners had been going on since the completion of the Karakoram Highway and transport arrangements today exist for travelling across the border in comfort and safety. On the Pakistan side, of course, a tourist can drive in his own car—so fine is the condition of the newly built highway.

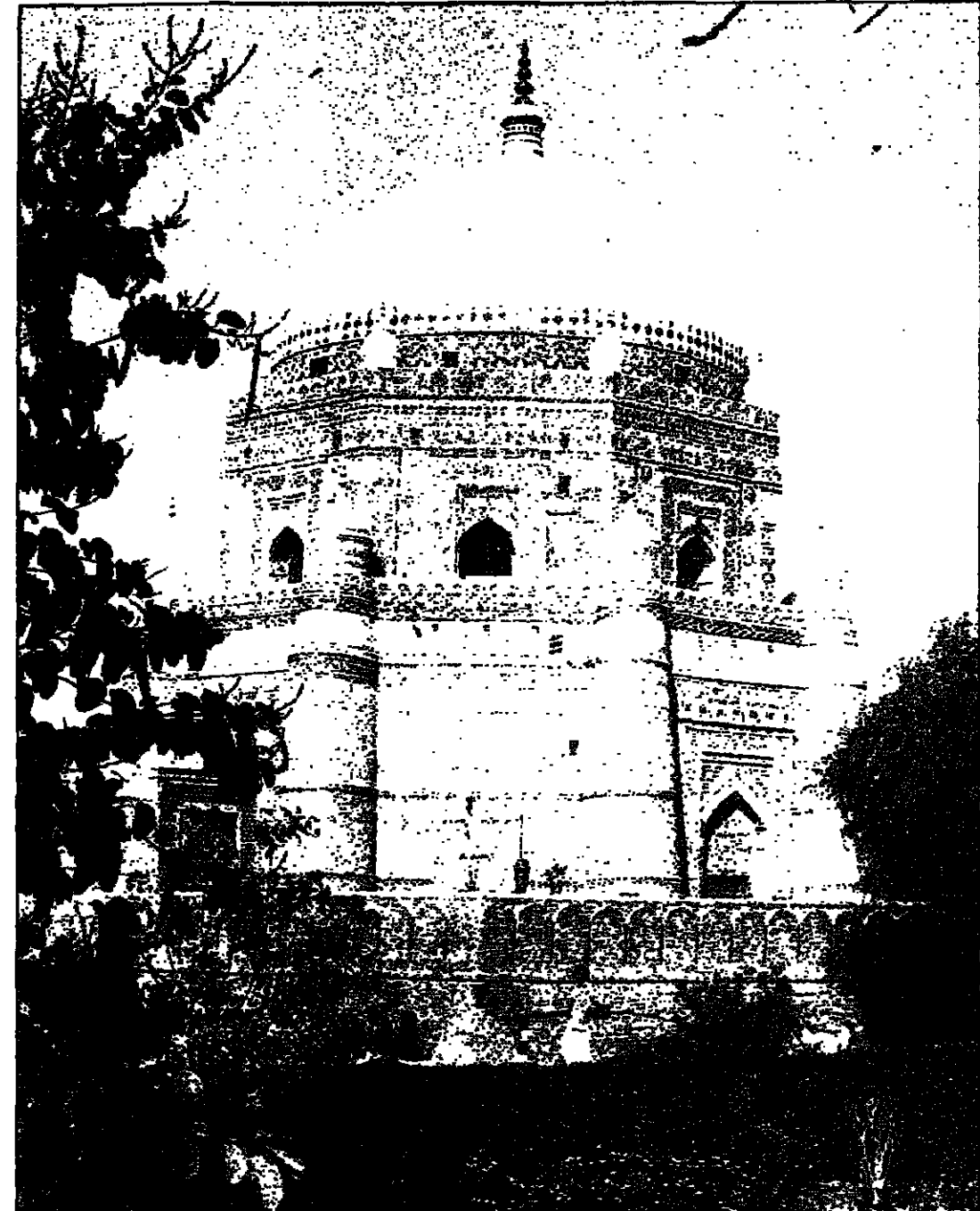


A view of the Khyber Pass.

The importance of the Karakoram Highway can be realised from the fact that before its construction, the jeep track over Babusar Pass in Kaghan, which led to the Gilgit valley, was open only for three to four months in a year. The journey from Gilgit to Chalt was over a risky track. From Chalt the path was nerve-racking, sometimes supported by wooden planks wedged into the mountain side, hundreds of feet above the raging rivers. Many travellers perished on the way.

The construction of airstrips at Gilgit and Skardu and introduction of PIA services, originally by Dakotas and later by F-27s, first brought these areas in regular communication with the rest of the country. These flights are still considered a tremendous experience as the peaks on both sides of the route rise much higher than the maximum altitude of the aircraft which follows the course of the River Indus.

Mountaineering: Mountaineers come to this area from all over the world. In 1987 over 60 expeditions had been given per-



Tomb of Shah Rukn-e-Alam.

mission to scale the various peaks. The Pakistan government have also opened mountaineering during the winter season and some permissions were granted in 1985 and 1986.

Trekking: The northern region, however, is a paradise for trekkers. No permission is required for "open" treks. For people going to restricted treks, however, permission is needed from the Ministry of Tourism, which can be made available within a short time.

An all-out effort is being made

to train loaders and guides for the trekkers. Several reliable agencies are operating with their offices in Islamabad.

Water sports: In 1986 certain parts of the mountain streams were opened for white water sports and international enthusiasts came with their own rafts and equipment, and it is hoped that gradually all infrastructure will be available for the visitors.

Himalayan Marathon: Five years ago (1985), a world-famous Swiss mountaineer, Sylvian Saudan, introduced a

new international sport in the northern areas. He organised a Super Himalayan Marathon in which participants from all over the world, took part in the marathon race. The event took place in the Valley of Baltoro. It comprised three steps of Himalayan path—from 3,000 to 5,000 feet high. The participants, which included women, were distributed in three categories. The marathon also took place in 1986 with increased number of runners and it is expected to become an annual event.

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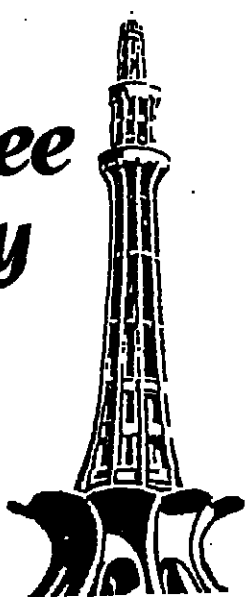
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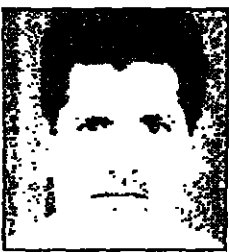
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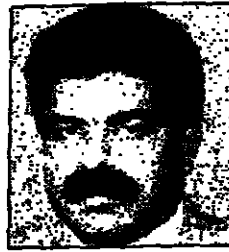
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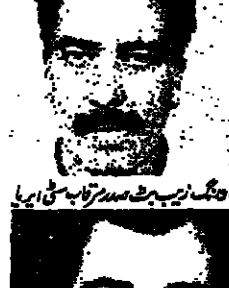
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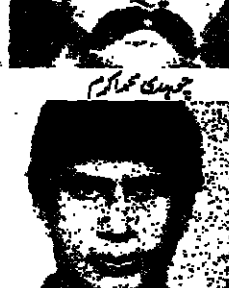
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گولڈن جوبلی اسلامی جمہوریہ پاکستان

کے مبارک موقع پر ہم اپنی منتخب اور ہر دلعزیز وزیر اعظم، اراکین حکومت اور تمام پاکستانی عوام کو مبارک باد پیش کرتے ہیں اور پاکستان پیپلز کلب کے مرکزی عہدیدار اور ستائشیں ذیلی کمیٹیوں کے عہدیدار وطن عزیز کی تعمیر و ترقی میں اپنے ہر قدم کے تعاون کا یقین دلاتے ہیں اور کویت میں مقیم پاکستانیوں سے استدعا کرتے ہیں کہ وہ ایمان، اتحاد اور تنظیم کی قوت سے ملکی ترقی اور نئی نسل کے روشن مستقبل کے لئے اپنی قومیت پر فخر و ایمان پوری کرتے ہوئے موجودہ جمہوری حکومت کے ہاتھ



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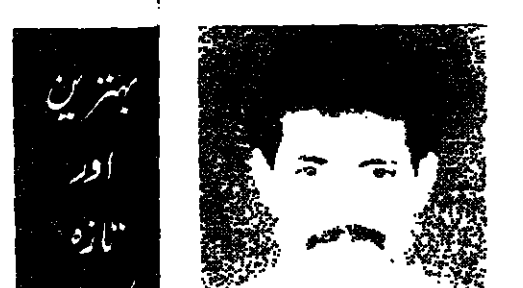
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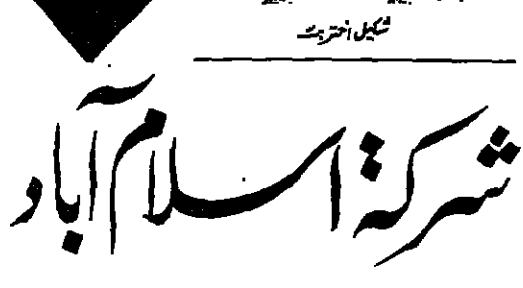
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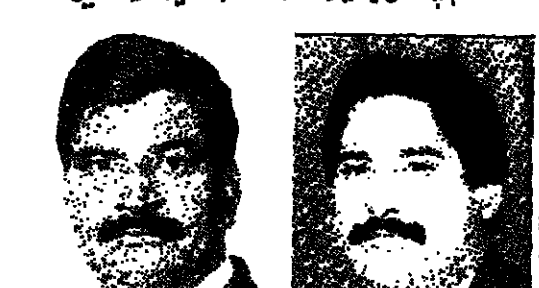
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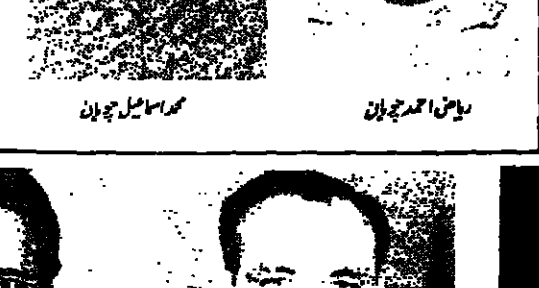
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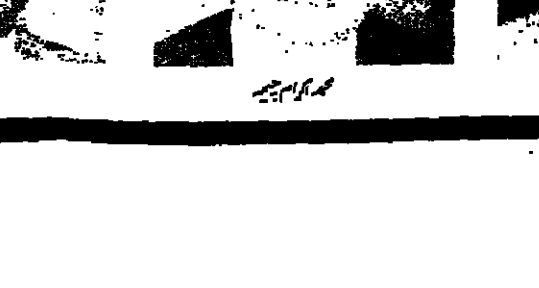
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Land and People

Islam shapes culture for thousands of years

By Shazia Iqbal

ON AUGUST 14, 1947, when a new state appeared on the map of the world and was christened "Pakistan", the event was heralded as unique in the history of the Indian subcontinent.

On this historic occasion the founder and architect of the nation, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, declared: "The establishment of Pakistan, for which we have been striving for the last ten years, is today, by the grace of God, an established fact. The idea was that we should have a state in which we could develop according to our own genius and culture and where principles of Islamic social justice could find free play."

The name "Pakistan" is derived from two Persian words "Pak" (meaning pure) and "Stan" (meaning country), implying a country in which Islam is practised as laid down by the Holy Prophet Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

In the words of a contemporary British historian, Sir Percival Spear, "it may be said that the birth of Pakistan was the result of a very strong urge... of which there was first the consciousness of a separated Islamic culture and way of life, colouring values and affecting action, which ran to the roots of Muslim being."

Physical features: The Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as it is known today, is located between 23° 37' north latitude and 61° 76' east longitude, with an area of 796,095 sq. km. The country is as big as the United Kingdom and France put together and extends from the



The Indus Valley Civilization, unearthed in 1921, ranks as one of the three literate settlements 5,000 years ago.

Pamirs and the Hindukush mountains in the north to the Arabian Sea in the south. It is bounded by Afghanistan on the northwest, Iran on the west, India on the east and southeast, and Arabian Sea on the south.

There is also a common border with China along Gilgit and Baltistan on the north.

Geographically, Pakistan is the only country in the world where three famous mountain ranges meet — the Himalayas,

the Karakoram and the Hindukush, separating it from China and the Soviet Union.

With the assemblage of 35 peaks of over 24,000 ft height (7,315 metres), the region is the mountaineers' paradise. Many of the summits are higher than 26,000 ft (7,925 metres), and the highest K-2 at 28,250 ft (8,610 metres), is the second highest in the world.

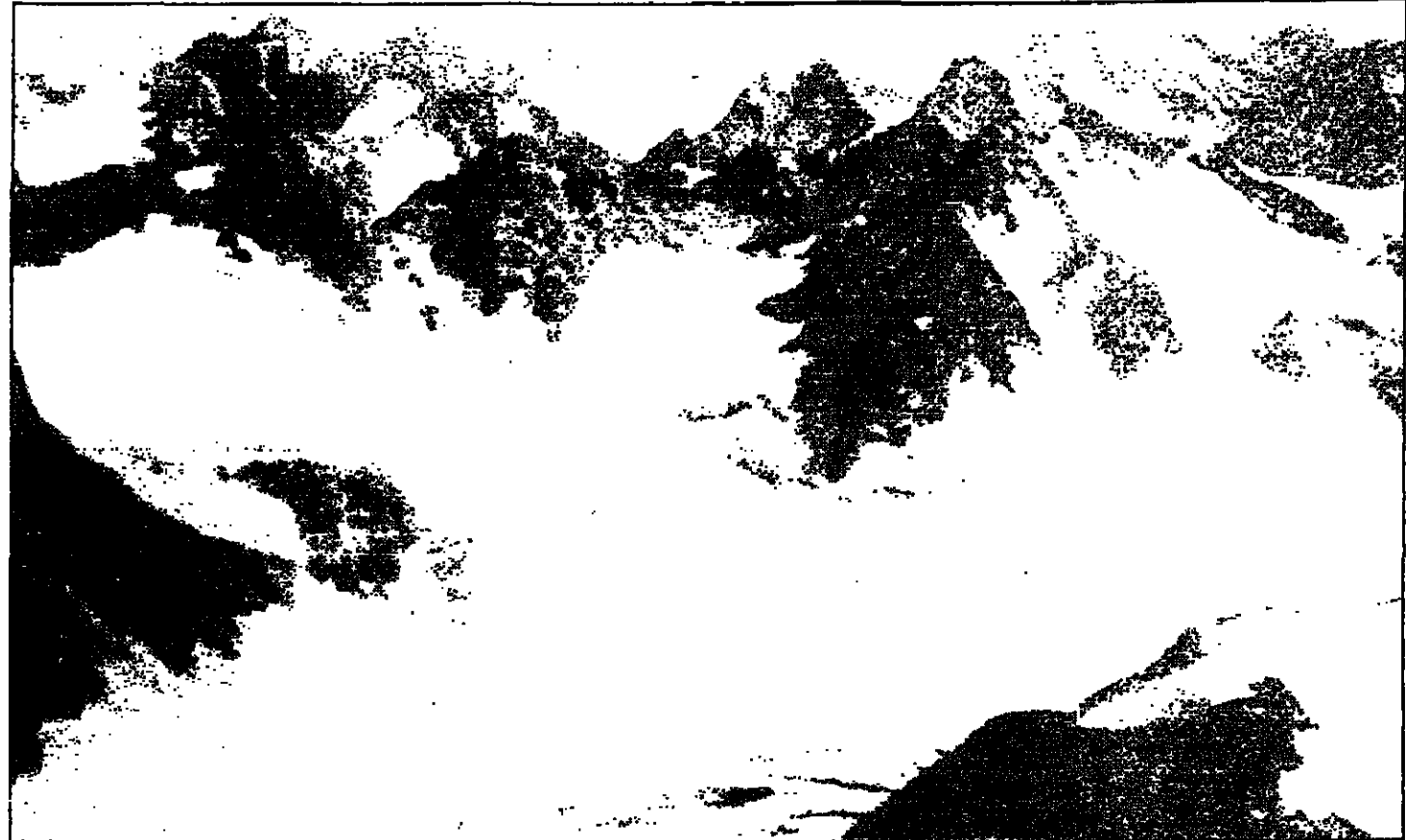
The Karakoram Highway, which is the highest trade route in

the world, passes through these mountains. It is considered to be a marvel of modern engineering, attracting the tourists for an exciting trip between Pakistan and China on the ancient "Silk Route" taken by explorers like Heun Tsang and Marco Polo in the past.

People and language: At the time of independence, the population of Pakistan was estimated at 32.5 million. Between 1947 and 1981 it increased more than two-and-a-half times to 84.3 million. The population on January 1, 1989, is estimated at 107 million based on the inter-censal growth rate of 3.1 per cent. As a result, among the 37 low income countries, Pakistan is the fourth most populous country after China, India and Bangladesh.

Ethnically, the majority of Pakistanis come from the Indo-Aryan stock, although we can find the Dravidian, Semitic and Mongoloid elements scattered all over the country. Similarly, the overwhelming majority (over 94 per cent), of the population is Muslim, and the remaining are minority communities that include Christians, Hindus, Parsis and the Buddhists.

There are four distinct regional languages — Punjabi, Sindhi, Pushto and Baluchi, besides half-a-dozen different dialects spoken in the country, but the lingua franca is Urdu, while English is used for all official correspondence and commercial and banking transactions, etc.



The Karakoram: this was the highest trade route on the ancient Silk Route

The climate is extremely diverse, from severe cold to excessively hot, according to the aspect and elevation. Winters, however, are quite pleasant in the plains and along the Arabian Sea coast in the south.

Foundations of Pakistan: The country has had a great and glorious past. It offers vast, varied and valuable treasures of archaeology comparable to any in the world. The Indus civilisation of the third millennium BC, unearthed in 1921 in the great river system of Pakistan, ranks as one of the first three literate civilisations of the world, following closely upon those of Mesopotamia and Egypt. The remains of the Indus valley civilisation discovered at Harappa in the Punjab and Moenjodaro in Sind are among the most spectacular cities of the world, with their well-laid streets, brick-built houses, complete with stairways, wells and bathrooms, underground drainage system and rubbish chutes, etc.

The discovery of a large number of squarish sealite and brown jasper seals, bearing engravings of animals, trees and human figures, with an illegible inscription, have been puzzling the epigraphists and linguists for nearly 70 years.

Again, at Taxila in the Punjab, about 30 km from Islamabad, the federal capital, on the main highway to the frontier city of Peshawar, are ruins of four great civilisations: Greek, Scythian, Parthian and Buddhist, the earliest having been occupied by about 180 BC.

Peshawar, the capital of the North West Frontier Province, is one of the ancient cities of Pakistan, known for its Arabian Nights atmosphere and traditional arts and crafts. Its proximity to the legendary Khyber Pass, through whose rugged ravines have flowed countless hordes of invaders,

merchants, scholars and soldiers of fortune since time immemorial, has been the locale of many a story and poem of Rudyard Kipling and other British writers and poets. Similarly great soldiers from Winston Churchill to Wavell have been known to have fought in and around this historic pass, which is no longer forbidden to the tourists.

Advent of Islam: The long span of a millennium, from the arrival of the Arabs to the decline and fall of the Mughal empire, however, laid foundations of Islamic civilisation on the soil of Pakistan, affecting almost every facet of life and thought. They provided a revolutionary change in the social and cultural traditions, whether it was food and drinks (which are totally different from the non-Muslim culinary traditions), architecture and housing, furniture and drapery, cosmetics and beauty aids, colourful apparel and stylish jewellery, etc.

More than these physical changes in the lifestyle, a much deeper and more effective spiritual renaissance took place among the people during this period. This was the result of the selfless devotion and teachings of the Muslim sufis, religious scholars and the devotees of Islam, who travelled from far and wide and came over to this part of the world, to convey the message of love and brotherhood to humanity, without any ulterior motives.

Islam, thus, shaped the culture and customs of the people of this land for a continuous span of over a thousand years. The most valuable among its contributions was the fine art of building as introduced in the subcontinent in the shape of mosques and shrines, palaces and pavilions, distinguished by tall minarets and domes of monumental size, and achievements in the sphere

of decorative arts such as stucco, mosaic, faience, pietra-dura, and the colourful inlay besides glazed tile and mirror work in attractive floral and geometrical designs. Lahore, the capital of Punjab, as the second largest city of Pakistan, is, in fact, known as the "Queen of Cities". It has been the

hub of cultural and academic activities since the time of the great Mughals, and is today the most important centre of scholastic and artistic pursuits in the fields of fine arts, architecture, painting, calligraphy, music and the development of new trends in Urdu prose and poetry.



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رفیق احمد مرزا
جنرل سیکریٹری پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی
پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی سرکل
سلمان شاہ، مونی بوج، سی ٹان
اور سید طاہر
پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی ورکننگ
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اور عبدالغنی شمس

ڈاکٹر یاسین احمد میسر
صدر پاکستان پیپلز پارٹی
گورنر بلال دلاور
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اور ایاز خاں

قادر باور پاکستان
گولڈن جوبلی دہائی
۲۲ مارچ
۱۹۹۰

بین الاقوامی فضاؤں میں
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دس گنا تک ...
آپ اپنی خواہ سے دس گنا زیادہ تک بینک الخليج سے قرضہ لے سکتے ہیں۔ اور اگر آپ بینک سے پہلے قرضہ لے چکے ہیں اور اس میں سے ۵۰ فیصد تک ادائیگی کی جا چکی ہے تو آپ خواہ سے ۱۵ گنا زیادہ قرضہ حاصل کرنے کے اہل ہو سکتے ہیں۔

۳۸ ماہ تک ...
اور آپ پریشان نہ ہوں۔ ... آپ قرض کی ادائیگی ۳۸ ماہ میں تک کر سکتے ہیں۔

آج ہی ...
ذاتی قرضے کے لئے درخواست دیں اور اسی دن منظوری حاصل کر لیں۔

جب بھی آپ کو فوری طور پر رقم کی ضرورت ہو ...
تو آپ بینک الخليج کی کسی بھی شاخ سے رجوع کریں۔

آپ کی خدمت کے لئے نئی راہوں کی تلاش میں کوشاں

By Ifkhar M. Khan

REMITTANCES by the Pakistanis working abroad have been a major source of foreign exchange earnings to the country, particularly during the last decade. Workers' remittances which were a meagre \$136 million or about 18 per cent of Pakistan's merchandise exports in 1972-73, rose steadily to cross the one billion dollar mark in 1977-78. However, after reaching their peak level of \$2,886 million in 1982-83 when they even surpassed the merchandise export earnings of that year by about 10 per cent, remittances started declining and were \$2,013 million in 1987-88. The decline occurred due to slackening of developmental activities in the Middle East where bulk of the Pakistani workers have been employed. The following table shows the trend in the inflow of workers' remittances from different regions and countries.

It can be observed from the workers' remittances table that Middle East countries constitute a source of bulk of remittances. The share of remittances by Pakistanis working in the Middle East countries in the total annual remittances jumped from a mere 26 per cent in 1972-73 to 86 per cent in 1983-84. Mean calculated for a period of ten years i.e., 1978-79 to 1987-88, showing the percentage share of home remittances originating from different countries/regions depicts the following picture:

Countries/Regions Percentage

Middle East 79

UK 8

USA 5

Others 8

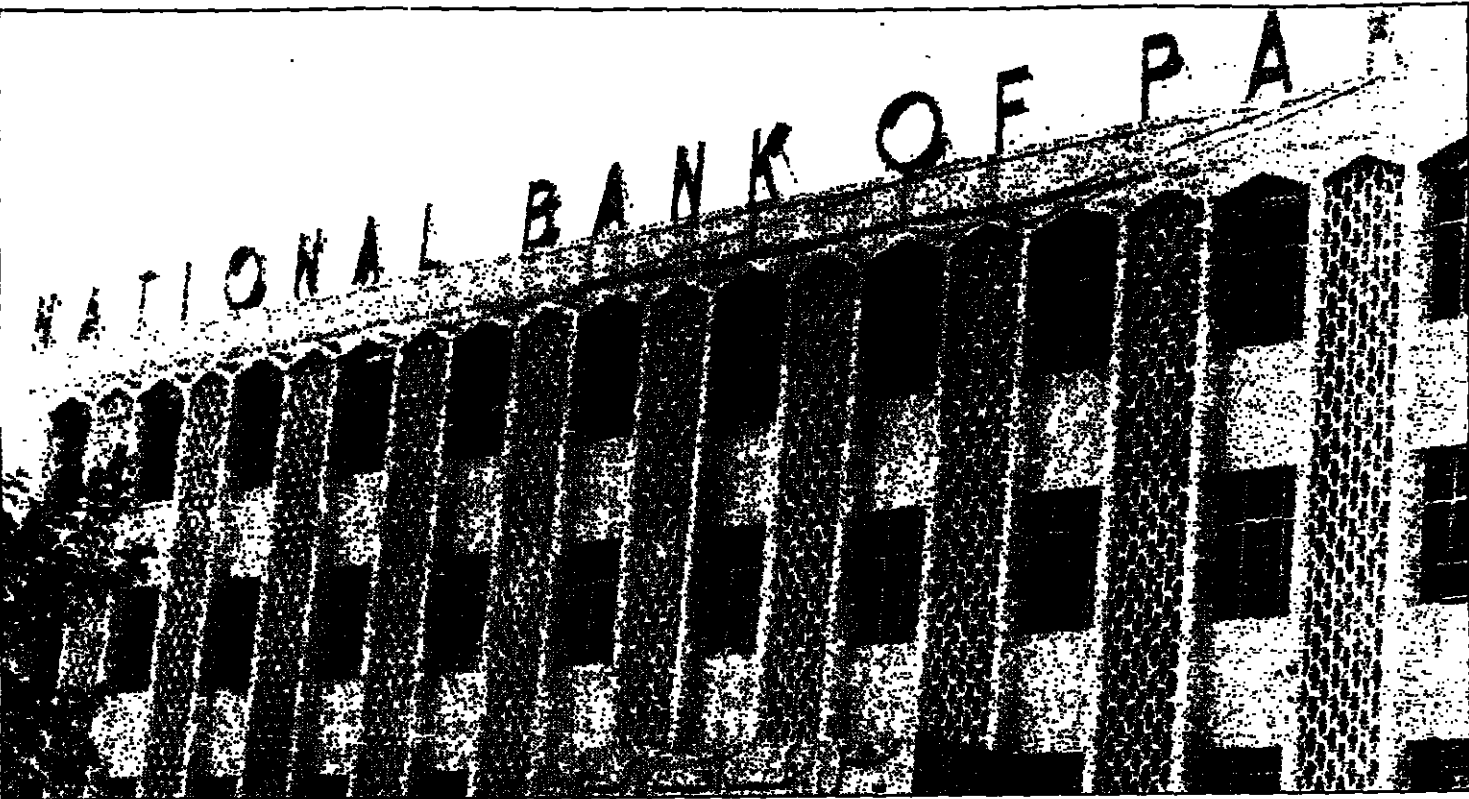
Total 100

The oil prices crash and the effect of recession in the mid-eighties has led to sharp decline in remittances from the Middle East over the past few years. In 1987-88, the share of Middle East in total remittances fell to 70 per cent from 86 per cent in 1983-84. On the other hand, over the same four-year period, remittances inflows improved from 5 per cent to 11 per cent from the UK, from 4 per cent to 9 per cent from the USA and from 5 per cent to 10 per cent from other countries.

In 1988-89, it is reported that the total actual remittances were close to the drastically reduced target of 1.9 billion dollars.

According to unofficial estimates there are at present nearly 2 million Pakistanis working abroad, 60 per cent of which

Vital source of foreign exchange



An imposing view of the Rawalpindi branch of the National Bank of Pakistan.

are unskilled and semi-skilled labour employed in the Middle East. These workers have evinced a high propensity to remit home as a result of contractual nature of their employment, low expenses on overheads and claims of non-migrant dependents. On the other hand, Pakistanis working in the UK, USA and other Western countries, with a generally higher savings potential, are less disposed to remit home their savings. This is partly owing to their permanent residence status abroad and partly as a result of weak domestic inducements.

Some of the major reasons for the decline in home remittances are briefly stated below:

- Decline in oil prices and the consequent slump in the construction sector and other economic activities in the Gulf countries has affected the level of employment and considerably reduced the demand for new labour.
- Salaries and wages have been

reduced in some countries.

- Acceptance of lower emoluments by workers from some of the South Asian countries has also affected the plight

of Pakistani workers.

- Pakistanis in large number are returning home for settlement as their contracts abroad are not being renewed. According to a

Workers' remittances

Year	Middle East	UK	USA	Others	Total
1972-73	35	72	10	19	136
1973-74	40	52	14	32	138
1974-75	76	72	19	45	212
1975-76	214	54	26	45	339
1976-77	434	50	29	65	578
1977-78	933	77	51	95	1,156
1978-79	1,096	119	54	129	1,398
1979-80	1,361	150	61	172	1,744
1980-81	1,667	185	70	194	2,116
1981-82	1,836	121	72	196	2,225
1982-83	2,408	162	133	183	2,886
1983-84	2,344	142	106	145	2,737
1984-85	2,069	136	105	136	2,446
1985-86	2,022	223	194	156	2,595
1986-87	1,674	205	192	208	2,279
1987-88	1,419	215	178	201	2,013

Source: Pakistan Basic Facts - 21st Edition
Pakistan Economic Survey 1988-89

1985, assessed this figure at 43 per cent on a national level.

As remittances constitute a vital link in the economy of the country, it is high time that the government should take necessary measures to arrest the decline in their inflow. In this respect, the following may be taken to induce overseas Pakistanis to remit more funds through the proper channels:

- With a view to discourage "hundi" system and to induce larger inflows of funds through the banking channels, a preferential exchange rate for remittances can be worked out.

- Further improvement in banking services is required for prompt payment of remittances to families in Pakistan. The introduction of mobile banking services in some regions of the country is a right step in this direction.

- Personal baggage facilities should be linked with the amount of remittances, e.g. a certain percentage of the value of remittances sent through banking channels could automatically generate facilities for imported goods.

- The present quota of 10 per cent for overseas Pakistanis for allotment of residential plots in government housing schemes should be raised.

It is heartening to note that Overseas Pakistanis Foundation which was established in March, 1979 has done commendably well in the housing sector. By mid-1989, the foundation had allotted nearly 5,000 plots to overseas Pakistanis under the OPF housing schemes established in 9 cities. Currently, work is in progress for the establishment of 8 more OPF housing schemes. Apart from providing educational and welfare services to overseas Pakistanis and their families, the foundation has recently augmented its efforts for the establishment of industrial units in the country on a large scale.

- Lastly, to boost the foreign exchange remittances, the Pakistan government should give priority to finding a new avenues abroad for the employment of Pakistani manpower.



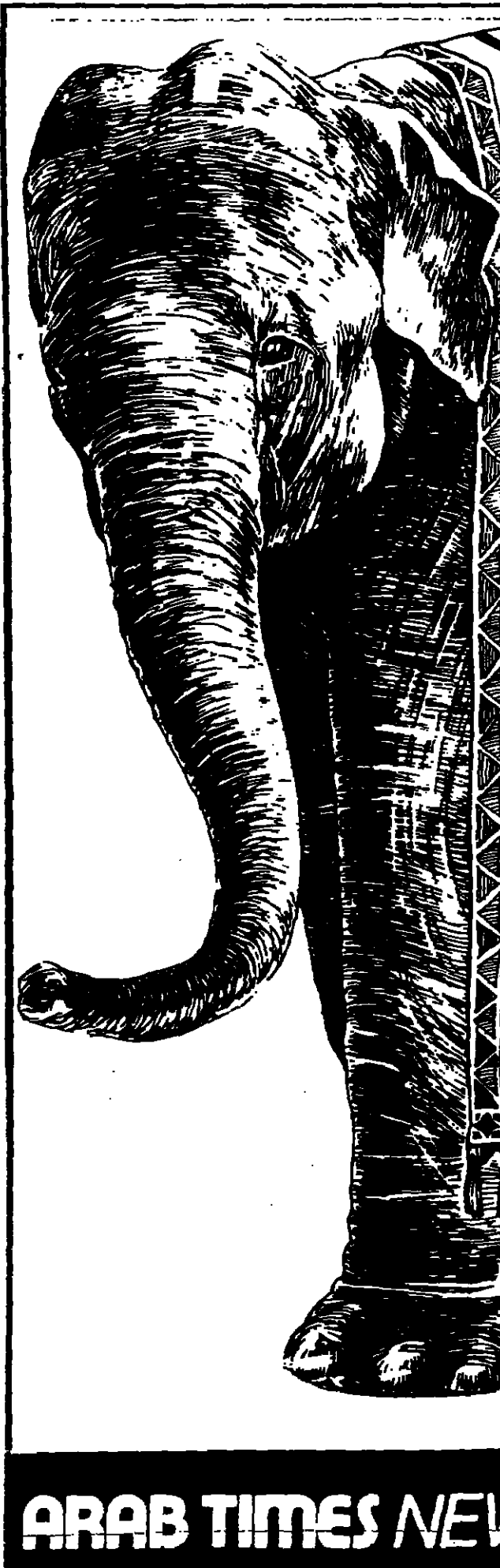


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Export of textile and textile products

By Akhtar Alam
DG (Textile) EPB

PAKISTAN is a predominantly agricultural country and cotton occupies an important place in its economy. Raw cotton is Pakistan's major foreign exchange earner, followed by cotton yarn, cotton cloth, garments and cotton mad-ups. Export of cotton and textile products accounts for about 60 per cent of the total exports.

The political stability coupled with the incentives available to manufacturers and exporters provided the right frame-work for rapid growth of the industry in the sixties. Our exports were, however, confined to cotton yarn and cotton piece goods which started from scratch in 1954 amounted to 24 million dollars in 1964. These phenomena, however, proved shortlived and soon the industry had to face major shocks — loss of markets in the eastern wing, labour unrest on account of shift in the labour policy, increase in liabilities on account of massive devaluation etc. Production and exports not only stagnated but also declined and a large part of the industry became sick.

After the loss of half of the internal market in 1971, our businessmen had no choice but to look for markets abroad. Their aggressive marketing succeeded and export of cotton textiles started picking up. The devaluation of Rupee in 1973 provided further fillip to export efforts and besides cotton yarn and piece goods production and export of manufactured goods such as tents and canvas, cotton bags, towels, hosiery and other cotton made-ups progressively increased during the seventies.

Our exports in 1988 amounted to 4.48 billion dollars out of which the share of textiles and textile products (including cotton) was 1.987 billion dollars (45 per cent). The percentage of textiles and textile products has increased from 37 per cent in 1985 to 45 per cent in 1988.

Cotton Yarn
It is reported that one million new spindles have been installed besides reactivating half a million closed ones. Production of cotton yarn has reached 65 million Kgs per month as against 36 million Kgs in 1987-88.

Pakistan holds an important position in the cotton yarn trade in the world. A quantity of 211 million Kgs valued at 541 million dollars was exported during 1987-88 which was all time high in terms of price and value. Exports during the last ten years have nearly trebled.

According to recent indications, the prices of cotton yarn have started falling. It seems that it has reached its peak and a turnaround is in the way. Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong are the major buyers who account for 70 to 75 per cent of the total exports of yarn. The share of medium count has slightly increased but the large part of our yarn still comprises coarser counts.

Cotton Fabrics
The cotton weaving industry is divided into two sectors namely mills and the Powerlooms. In the mill sector, the number of looms have decreased from 30,000 to 8,000 over the years. In the powerloom sector, there are approximately 100,000 looms. Thus the powerloom sector is by far the largest weaving sector producing cotton cloth for domestic consumption and export. This sector comprises units which are small, scattered and unorganised. Most of the units are located at Faisalabad. The price of cloth produced by these units is low but the quality is not up to the mark.

The manufacture and export of cloth has not shown much progress. Although its export in 1987-88 amounted to 485 million dollars as compared to 343 million dollars in 1986-87, it has started declining in 1988-89. The decline in the first six months of the current year is more than 13 per cent. The share of finished cloth has substantially increased in the recent years and the ratio of grey and finished is now about 60:40. The major buyers of our cotton fabric are UK, USA, Saudi Arabia, Australia, France, West Germany, USSR and Tanzania. They account for about 50 per cent of the total exports.

The weaving industry is currently passing through a transition. About 2000 shuttleless looms have been installed and more are in the pipeline. This will bring the required modernisation in the weaving sector with-out which the ancillary industries particularly the garment industry can not make much progress.

Towel industry forms part of the weaving sector. The towel-



ing units are also by and large small, scattered and unorganised. The quality of towels produced by these units is, therefore, not of a high order. The production and export of towels of low and medium quality has, however, made substantial progress during the last ten years. Its export has consistently been showing increases from year to year. Starting from 21 million dollars in 1978-79 its export rose to 117.4 million dollars in 1987-88 recording an increase of about 500 per cent.

The major buyers of our towels are USA, West Germany, UK, France, USSR, Canada, Japan, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Netherlands and Saudi Arabia. Most of these countries have annual quotas on import of towels from Pakistan. The USA is the main market to which our towels are exported in bulk at a very low price. There is a large demand for white bleached towels in the United States which the Pakistani exporters could easily supply but for the annual quota restraint the export is limited.

Bed linen
The bed linen industry has made remarkable progress during the 90s. In the beginning, the industry mainly concentrated on production and export of bleached sheets and pillow cases to cater to the requirements of hotels and hospitals abroad. The introduction of the latest rotary printing machines has, however, brought a revolution in the field of printing and dyeing. The bed linen industry has largely benefited from this development and is reflected in the quality and

value of its exports made during the last five years.

Export of cotton made-ups which mainly comprises bed linen and table linen amounted to 175.75 million dollars in 1987-1988 as compared to 58.65 million in 1983-84 showing an increase of 200 per cent. Presently the export of the table linen forms a small part of the exports but has great scope for expansion.

Hosiery
The major buyers of table and bed linen are USA, West Germany, Netherlands and UK. The EEC countries account for about 50 per cent of the exports. The product has great potential in USA to whom sheets and pillow cases were exported to the extent of 26 million Sq. Yds. during 1988. Our exporters have found a foothold for this product in USA which offers substantial scope for expansion in the current year. The sheets and pillow cases made from cotton have received positive response from the US buyers and it is anticipated that export of these products will substantially pick-up in coming years. The sophistication achieved in the field of printing and dyeing has enabled the exporters to meet the quality demands of the European buyers who look for colours and exclusive designs. With the progress made in this field, there is no reason why our exporters can not meet the quality requirements of Gulf and Middle East markets which currently meet their requirements from other sources.

Readymade garments
The readymade garments industry owes its origin to the 70s and is, therefore, of a recent origin. In the beginning the industry mainly depended on production of handloom and traditional garments which were in great demand in Europe and America as casual wears. Encouraged by the success in this field, some of the businessmen started producing basic garments with the help of imported samples and succeeded in exporting them to the Western European countries and the USA.

By A. R. Kemal

WITH a view to accelerating the pace of industrial development and diversifying the structure of manufacturing industries, the government of Pakistan has made concerted efforts to attract foreign private investment. Pakistan has invited members of the Chambers of Commerce and Industries of various countries to assess the investment potential of the country and to explore the possibilities of joint ventures. Government has also provided all sorts of incentives and assurances to the foreign investors.

Foreign private investment has not been all that significant in Pakistan. The need for it was not felt with that urgency in the past because Pakistan had focussed on labour-intensive consumer goods industries which did not involve any sophisticated technology. However, the future industrialisation of the country depends on the growth of consumer durables, capital goods and intermediate goods industries. These industries involve sophisticated technology which is possessed by the multinationals. Accordingly, the only way technology can be transferred is through the foreign private investment. In order to attract private investment government has provided various incentives. The foreign investors have not only been allowed to remit their profits and capital but they are also allowed to remit their capital

Incentives for foreigners

gains. They are also provided relief from double taxation and the foreign employees are allowed to remit 50 per cent of their net incomes. Besides, all the incentives granted to the domestic investors, which are rather significant, are also provided to the foreign investors. Domestic market is protected against competitive imports through tariffs and if need be through non-tariff barriers. However, there are no restrictions on the imports of raw materials and intermediate goods. As a matter of fact, most of the industries where private foreign investment is expected to flow (such as consumer durables requiring sophisticated technology) are allowed to import their input requirement at concessional rates of duties ranging between zero and thirty per cent. It is, therefore, obvious that the government of Pakistan has endeavoured to raise both the pre- and the post-tax profits to attract more foreign investment.

Rate
No doubt there has been a very sharp increase in the foreign private investment at the rate of 24 per cent per annum over the last few years. Nevertheless, the foreign private investment forms very small proportion of total investment in the country. The low foreign investment until recently is largely attributed to

rather long delays in investment sanctioning and the inadequate infrastructures. During the last few months, major steps have been taken in this direction and it is hoped that they would lead to a very sharp acceleration in the pace of foreign investment.

One of the main complaints of the overseas investors in the developing countries has been that the government takes rather long to decide whether setting up of a project would be allowed or not. Moreover, sometimes after waiting for long time, a negative decision is conveyed to the investor which discourages other investors. Furthermore, even when the government does approve a project, long time taken in the decision changes the parameters governing the project so significantly that investors tend to lose interest.

In view of the significance of this aspect, the government has published a prohibited list and positive list of the industries for overseas private investment. Except for agriculture land, forestry, irrigation, real estate, radioactive minerals, insurance and health, foreign investment is not welcome in all the activities. The industrial policy also suggests that the industries based on sophisticated technology which are generally capital intensive are even more welcomed. Government also values the industries

more which help the balance of payment position. Accordingly to boost investment in the export oriented industries, government has set up an export processing zone in Karachi.

Not only positive and negative lists for private overseas investment have been issued, government has taken important initiatives to expedite approval of projects. All projects which cost less than one thousand million rupees do not require any approval of the government. Moreover, for the projects exceeding Rs 1,000 million, the approval process has been expedited. A Board of Industrial Investment has been set up which meets every month under the chairpersonship of the prime minister and most of the projects are approved within a span of three months. Let us hope that the easing of procedures in the approval of projects would lead multinationals to come in a big way to Pakistan.

The inadequate physical infrastructures, no doubt discourage investment. There had been significant delays in the past to obtain the necessary complementary inputs as it involved a number of visits to various departments and ministries. Government has introduced one-window facility which ensures the provision of adequate infrastructures on priority basis.

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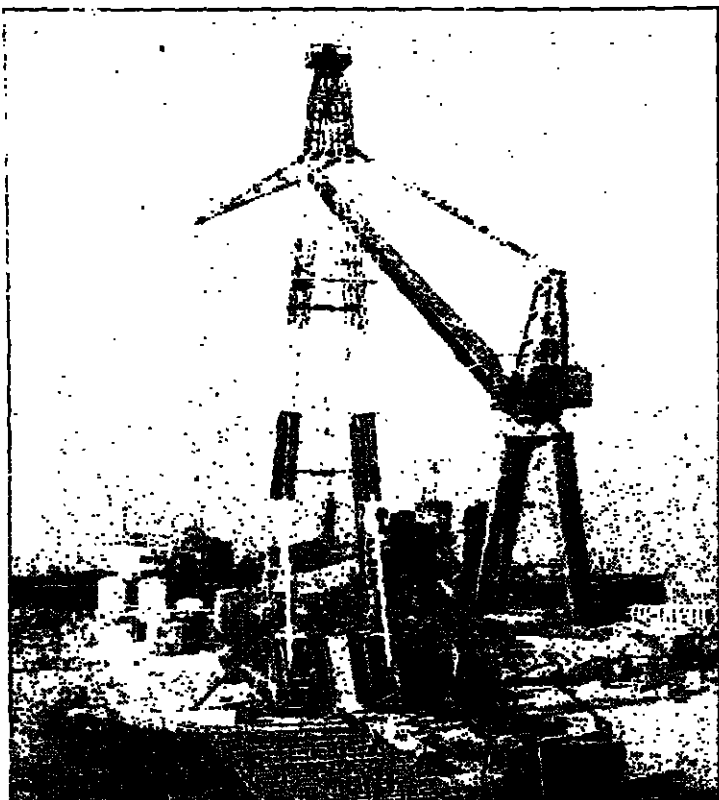
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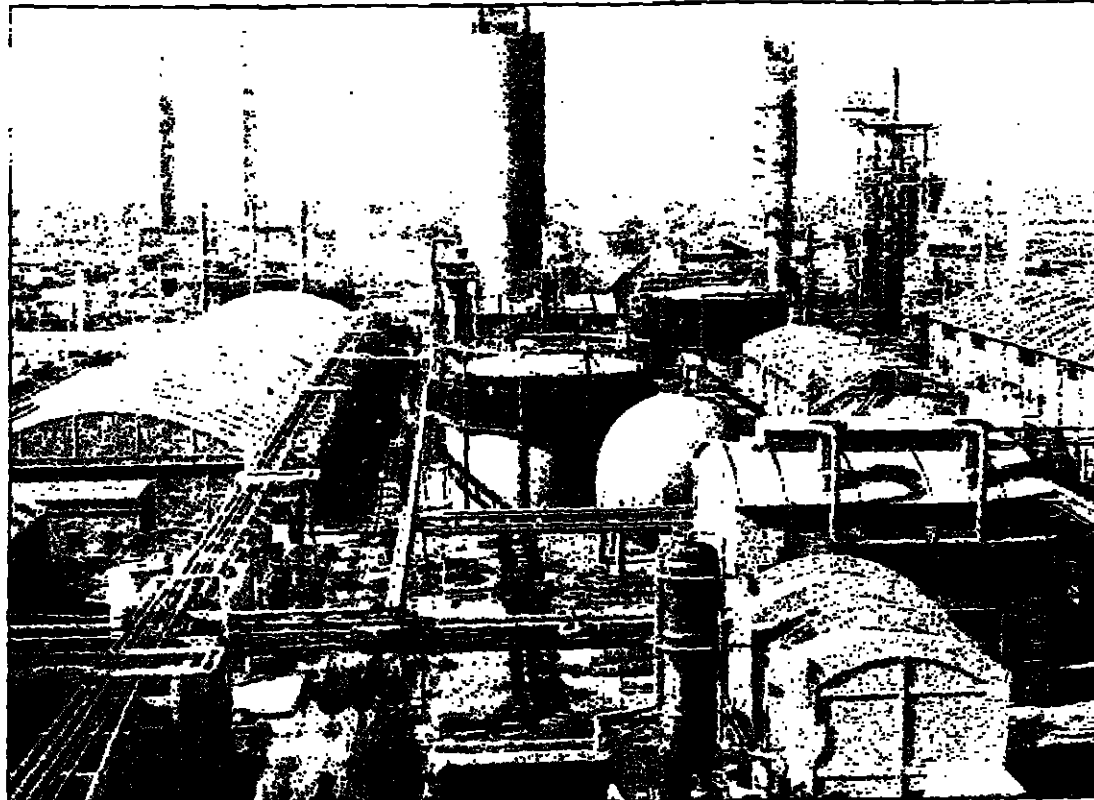
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Summer drink of the East

PICTURE the ivory white flowers of citrus fruits that emit a keen scent in the heady air of the early spring. Think of the red roses which become more pleasing to the eyes as they bloom to spread fragrance all around. Imagine the lovely "Keora" plant whose white flower, the bark, the wood and the taproot yields waters whose fragrance may have come down to us right from the Elysium.

All these things have one factor in common: their extracts go into making Rooh Afza, the top selling cold drink of its kind in Pakistan and the favourite drinks of millions in Canada, the United States, the Middle East and much of the Arab world. The extracts of citrus fruits, of red roses and "Keora" do not make up the entire constituents of Rooh Afza. Many other benign and noble herbs, completely harmless colour the extracts of the choicest vegetable, apples, pomegranates and other fruit make up many of the rest.

Rooh Afza is not only a cold drink but an excellent pick me up. All of its consumers agreed that its taste and effect have always lived up to its name that literally means, "One that enhances the spirits and uplifts the soul." How true! In summers when the hellish heat makes the spirits sag and heavy perspiration coaxes many of the chemicals out of the human body to contribute to the general feeling of tiredness and lassitude, Rooh Afza acts as an excellent replenisher. It banishes fatigue just as the cool monsoon showers banish heat from a sun blasted land to make the sere leaves on trees green and the limp and weak bushes come back to life again.

The chances of a sunstroke, of nausea and palpitation getting the better of a human system in

which Rooh Afza is present are as remote as the chances of the imitators of this matchless drink copying it are. They may copy its colour, however poorly, they may make a "sharbat" that may look like it but they can never hit upon the same miraculous combination and proportions of ingredients and bring to bear the loving and caring touch of experts that goes to make each bottle of the Rooh Afza what it is, a truly outstanding drink for all seasons, particularly for summers.

The tradition of the magical touch of experts that was inaugurated by the founder of the Hamdard Hakeem Abdul Majeed, who spent years collecting rare herbs and many sleepless nights pondering upon the characteristics of fresh fruits and the effects of their combinations in a concoction stays fresh and alive in the laboratories of Hamdard and in the two plants which are constantly in production to cope with the demand — one in Karachi and one in Lahore.

The experts not only keep the tradition of research alive but they also keep a vigilant eye on quality to ensure that the buyer of every bottle of Rooh Afza will get as much from it as he is anticipating he will get. In Hamdard the experts ensure that the product lives up to the expectations of the user. It is this constant eye on quality that has made Rooh Afza a world leader in cold drinks.

Everything in Rooh Afza is natural and organic. The pronouncedment of this, fact alone should sound music to those people, particularly in the West who are willing to pay 10 times more for organic foods in which the influence of chemicals and fertilizers is not present. For instance, they may pay more for oranges, apples, even wheat

which has been grown on natural organic fertilizers. Rooh Afza is an organic drink to almost the last molecules of every drop of it.

For a very long time, no Rooh Afza has been meeting the extremely stringent quality control standards of the West. In the United States and Canada meets the high standards of the tough food laws. It is the wholesomeness of the drink that has made Rooh Afza consistently win over people there. With the very first touch on the palate, Rooh Afza makes a place for itself in the heart of the consumer. The matter doesn't end there: the pleasant after taste lingers to sweeten the soul and the breaths.

The basic philosophy of Rooh Afza of providing a natural restorative to a human body takes into account the scientific fact that 70 per cent of the weight in the body is made up of water. If a continuous supply of it through periodic intakes is not ensured, the human body can get dehydrated. Water is a necessity, but the intake of this element can be made a much better experience something sweet, fragrant and soothing is added to it. It is therefore that millions of humans being every day take water to which Rooh Afza is added. Water to which Rooh Afza is added becomes a re-inforce thirst quencher.

Rooh Afza induces a feeling of peace and tranquility. Its intake is always a soulful and pleasant experience. Saccharine which plays havoc with human system, is not present in Rooh Afza. Rooh Afza is not just a cold drink, it is also a good sweetening component of falooda, ferani, ice cream, milk shakes and lassi. These drinks are responsible for enhancing the taste of all these delicacies.

Striving to uplift standard of living

By A.R. Kemal

THE Pakistan movement aimed at the protection of Muslims of the sub-continent from economic exploitation besides protecting them from political and social subjugation. Lack of education, phasing out the demand for Muslim artisans due to severe competition from British imports and the relative neglect of the areas now comprising Pakistan made Muslims of sub-continent economically quite vulnerable. Since the Pakistan movement emphasised the economic welfare of the masses, the occasion of the golden jubilee of the Pakistan resolution provides a good opportunity to take stock of Pakistan's achievements of the failures in the economic field.

While it is true that the regions now comprising Pakistan had a per capita income of around Rs250 at the time of independence which was not very different from the average per capita income of the sub-continent at that time. Two main factors had put the Muslims of sub-continent at a grave disadvantage. Firstly, there was hardly

any industry in these areas with the result that any increment in the labour force was to be absorbed in the agriculture sector leading to lowering of the productivity and the incomes. Secondly, despite the high per capita income of the region, the Muslim peasants had low incomes both because of the uneven distribution of land and because the money lenders pre-empted a very large proportion of their incomes by exploiting their ignorance and charging exorbitantly high rates of interest. Therefore, it is no wonder that the Muslims at the time of independence were poor, illiterate, ill-nourished and generally enjoyed very poor health. They earned their livelihood mainly by working in agriculture. The region hardly had any infrastructures and that was the stumbling block to the industrialisation of the region. No doubt it was a big challenge for the new state and so far it has fared quite well in the economic uplift of its masses.

The economic growth of Pakistan has been quite impressive. An average growth rate of six per cent over a 40-year long period is no mean achievement. As a

result, per capita income of Pakistan has gone up by 2.5 times over the last forty years despite the fact that population has grown at a rate of 3.1 per cent. Pakistan's per capita income at present is almost 60 per cent higher than that of India whereas at the time of independence per capita income of Pakistan was not higher than that of India. Besides, the distribution of income in Pakistan is lot fairer than most of the developing countries. Whereas the ratio of income of the richest to that of the poorest in India is 7:1, it is only 5:3 in case of Pakistan. Similarly, while in India the poorest 20 per cent of the population has a share of seven per cent in the national income, they have a share of 7.6 per cent in case of Pakistan. It is therefore, obvious that a common citizen of Pakistan enjoys substantially higher living standards.

Standard Sharp increases in the living standard of a common Pakistani may largely be attributed to a rather rapid increase in the industrial production and the concern with the distribution of income. The country had three

land reforms which brought down considerably the inequality in the distribution of land. To protect the peasants from the indebtedness usury was made unlawful and bank credit is being provided at the concessional rates of interest to small farmers. Similarly small industries have been provided with various incentives including the exemption from sales and excise taxes and the provision of credit at lower rates of interest. Moreover, all such industries which could have been monopolised and the financial institutions were nationalised in the seventies to provide better living standard to the common man.

Pakistan which had virtually no industry at the time of partition can now boast of the proportions witnessed in the semi-industrialised countries. The share of large scale manufacturing sector in gross domestic product has increased from just two per cent in 1949-50 to about 12 per cent in 1988-89. At present the share of total manufacturing output in GDP exceeds 17 per cent. The increase in output has been instrumental in increasing the employment opportunities both directly and indirectly. The sharp increase in the manufacturing output has been the result of the fact that various governments of Pakistan remained committed to the development of the manufacturing sector.

The industrialisation process was supported by various policy measures including protection against competitive imports, subsidies to exports, tax holidays, tax credits, accelerated

depreciation allowances etc. Pakistan's manufacturing industries have so far concentrated mainly on consumer goods industries and concerted efforts are being made to attract foreign investment. In recent years the government has liberalised the economic environments to stimulate investment. To enhance levels of efficiency Pakistan is also pursuing privatisation policies.

Education

The quality of life shows remarkable improvements. The average calorie intake in the country is equivalent to 99 per cent of the FAO standards. Even though the literacy and the enrolment rates remain at low levels yet there have also been major gains in the field of education as well. The enrolments at the primary and middle levels have increased 10 folds, at secondary level 12 folds, at graduate level 31 folds, at professional college levels 18 folds and at the university level more than 100 folds.

However, despite the sharp increase in enrolments, the literacy levels did not rise significantly mainly because of a rather sharp increase in the population which grew at a rate of three per cent per annum. As a matter of fact the continued high birth rates is the major failure of Pakistan. If the population growth rate of Pakistan had remained two per cent, the country's per capita income could have increased by almost 10 times over the last forty years.



Salt Mines, Khewra.

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- ☆ کیشمر پورا ہو نہ روایتی پروڈکشن روز لید۔
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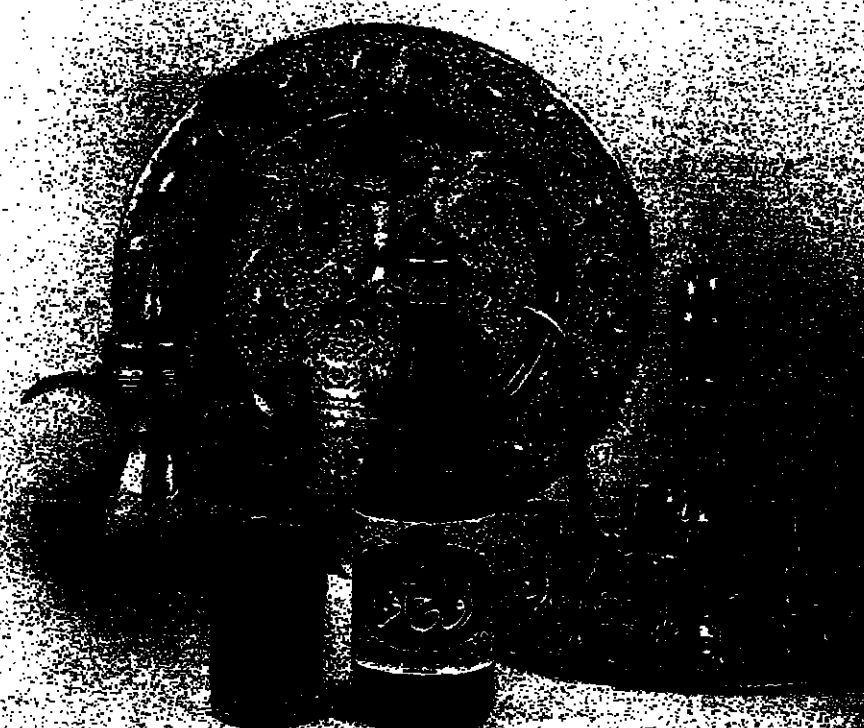
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Rooh Afza
The Eastern Original.



Rooh Afza was originated in the East about the beginning of the 20th Century. It caught the fancy of heat-oppressed people in the whole sub-continent and soon became the drink of the East. Its success was immediate and overwhelling.

Rooh Afza today, enjoys world-wide recognition. Its popularity owes much to its exceptional formula based on the traditional excellence and age-old wisdom of the East. It's a unique blend of luscious fruits, sweet-scented flowers, wholesome vegetables and efficacious herbs.

Rooh Afza is prepared on modern, automatic plants under strict quality control measures. It quenches thirst, refreshes the body, uplifts the soul and replenishes the lapsed energy, naturally.

There's nothing else like it.

Rooh Afza A matchless drink
— a timeless tradition.



Plans and achievements

People's programmes for community welfare, development

NEARLY seventy per cent of Pakistan's population lives in rural areas characterised by a deep-rooted vicious circle of poverty, rural unemployment, illiteracy and a fatalistic view of the natural and social environments.

The need to accelerate economic growth, to ameliorate the lot of the farming and non-farming rural communities, eradicate inequalities and to contain unemployment has been the concern of policy makers of the earlier governments. Various programmes were tried and tested in the past. These programmes were successful in varying degrees. Although they made considerable progress, yet a great deal was left undone. The investment inputs were far too limited to produce any dramatic results.

Amelioration of the lot of the farming and non-farming communities involves a complex process of change in rural sub-system and their interaction, leading to desired improvements in rural income, employment opportunities, incomes distribution, rural welfare and other aspects of rural life.

Committed

The present government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Mohrtama Benazir Bhutto is committed to broad-based socio-economic programme for providing the basic needs as well as anti-poverty programme focused on raising the income through income generating schemes/programmes that the poor and underprivileged in the community are enabled to raise their income as well as their living.

In view of the above and in order to have well-defined programmes which would achieve the objectives of the People's Party manifesto and to guard against shortcomings and pitfalls of the past programmes, the present government has launched the "People's Programme".

Basic concept

The basic concept and approach of the People's Programme is to provide basic needs/amenities to the people such as drinking water, preventive and curative health cover



Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto addressing the people at the launch of the People's Programme in Punjab at Bahawalnagar on April 25, 1989.

Poverty alleviation

Province	Sewing machines	Bicycles	Urea bags
Punjab	4,905	4,905	49,050
Sindh	1,975	1,975	19,750
NWFP	1,602	1,602	16,020
Baluchistan	918	918	9,180

sanitation, education and roads in rural and urban areas where the same are inadequately provided. People's programme differs from earlier programmes in its approach wherein the felt needs of the people are to be prioritised by the community itself. The community participates in planning and implementing the schemes/projects through decentralised organisation system. For successful implementation of the programme, support and co-operation of the farmers, non-farm workers, labourers, artisans, scientists, intellectuals, engineers, doctors, engineers, businessmen, traders, industrialists and government functionaries, in fact, people from all sections of the society, is needed.

Sectors

Initially, the programme is concentrating on four sectors mentioned earlier. Presently, a large number of schemes identified by their beneficiaries are under implementation in these four sectors. Gradually other

sectors will also be included in the programme. The programme also provides for special developmental efforts depending on the socio-economic requirements of certain communities or regions. It is also envisaged that in the near future community-based projects, on the lines of successful experiment i.e. Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) in the northern areas of Pakistan, Orangi Project in Sindh Province, etc. will also be included along with non-conventional concepts and schemes.

Project identification: This is for the first time that the beneficiaries are made responsible for identification of projects based on their felt needs and requirements. They are also

involved in planning the implementation of their projects. Under the People's Programme, development role of non-government organisations has been recognised and they are offered to take up maintenance and operational responsibility of completed schemes, if they desire so.

District committees: In order to decentralise the planning process from "top-down to bottom-up" approach, district committees have been constituted at the district level. These committees are made responsible for identification, planning, sanctioning administrative approval, supervision and maintenance of projects in their respective districts, costing up to Rs 500,000 (\$25,000). Under the People's

Programme emphasis is laid on smaller schemes with maximum territorial spread. However, depending on the requirements of the community and areas, the district committees may also initiate comparatively larger projects within their financial allocations.

In order to involve the community in the decentralised planning, the district committees have representatives of nation building departments, public-spirited persons known for their integrity and public service, as its members. Elected representatives also also nominated as members of the district committees to ensure people's participation in the programme.

Supplemental role: The People's Programme as a developmental effort is so conceived that it does not affect other development programmes of provincial and federal department, rather, it supplements them. The idea is to fill the gaps in various developmental efforts, wherever required. The allocation made for this programme is in addition

to normal allocations under the Annual Development Programme.

It is a fact that intensity and magnitude of problems faced by rural and neglected urban areas require much larger investments. However, within the present allocations under the People's Programme, it is expected that at least the most neglected and needy sections of the society will have easy access to health, education, potable water supply and sanitation facilities.

The process of identification and formulation of schemes is proceeding satisfactorily. The province-wise position till November, 1989 is given hereunder:

Punjab: In the Punjab, a total number of 2,501 schemes have been approved costing Rs 454.812 million (\$22.74 million). A sum of Rs 301.901 million (\$15.054 million) has been released to the executing agencies. The schemes approved so far are at various stages of implementation.

Sindh: In Sindh a total of 1,610

schemes costing Rs 205.051 million (\$10.252 million) are at various stages of execution, for which a sum of Rs 63.485 million (\$3.174 million) has been released to the executing agencies. Meanwhile 21 schemes have been completed.

NWFP: In NWFP, so far 937 schemes costing a total sum of Rs 143.406 million (\$7.170 million) have been approved and a sum of Rs 44.538 (\$2.226 million) released. These schemes are at various stages of implementation.

Baluchistan: Despite hurdles created by the provincial government, action has been initiated to implement the programme. Two schemes in the communications sectors have been launched in district Loralai.

Islamabad capital territory: Thirty schemes costing Rs 6.504 million (\$0.325 million) have been approved and a sum of Rs 1.951 million (\$0.097 million) released being 30 per cent cost of the schemes.

In all 5,078 schemes have been approved for execution throughout the country with a total cost of Rs 809.775 million out of which a sum of Rs 411.065 million (\$20.553 million) has been released to the executive agencies.

Poverty alleviation: As a poverty alleviation measure sewing machines, bicycles and urea bags were distributed amongst needy people, the criteria laid down for the recipients was that they should be poor and needy.

These were distributed through the respective district committee offices, which act as focal point of People's Programme. The newly launched organisation of People's Programme, in spite of considerable bottlenecks, opposition and multifarious difficulties has been able to start functioning with greatest speed. Compared with the Special Development Programme (5 Points Programme) of earlier regime, which had not even taken off in the first 10 months, the People's Programme organisation on the contrary, has in the period February-November, 1989 (10 months) established over 80 district committee offices, four regional additional directorate offices and with positioning of around 1,000 personnel as a cohesive organisation, has commenced 5,000 ongoing schemes costing over Rs 809 million.

With the maturing of the organisation and overcoming of the personnel, procedural and technical difficulties in the next few months, the People's Programme would be achieving most of its targets with accelerated speed. The greater and success of the programme, the more it is likely to face increasing cynicism by its detractors incoming years. However, millions of beneficiaries of the People's Programme schemes, would be reaping the fruits of a democratic order.

People's Programme is a unique organisation in which government functionaries, public-spirited persons, federal, provincial and local council's elected representatives are marching towards the goal of rural and urban development with participation of the people, by the people and for the people.

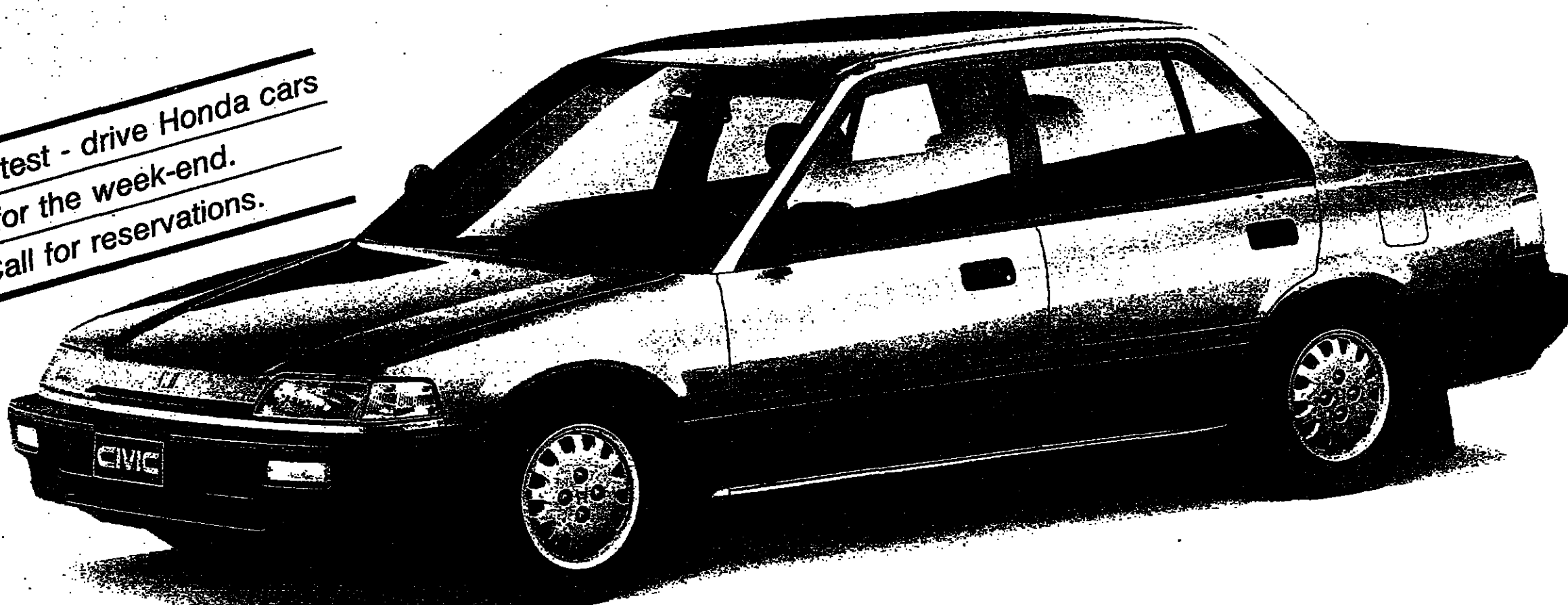
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Pictorial Pakistan



Yak caravan is a familiar sight on the Karakoram and the Hindukush ranges in the north.



Farmers preparing sugar from sugarcane juice.



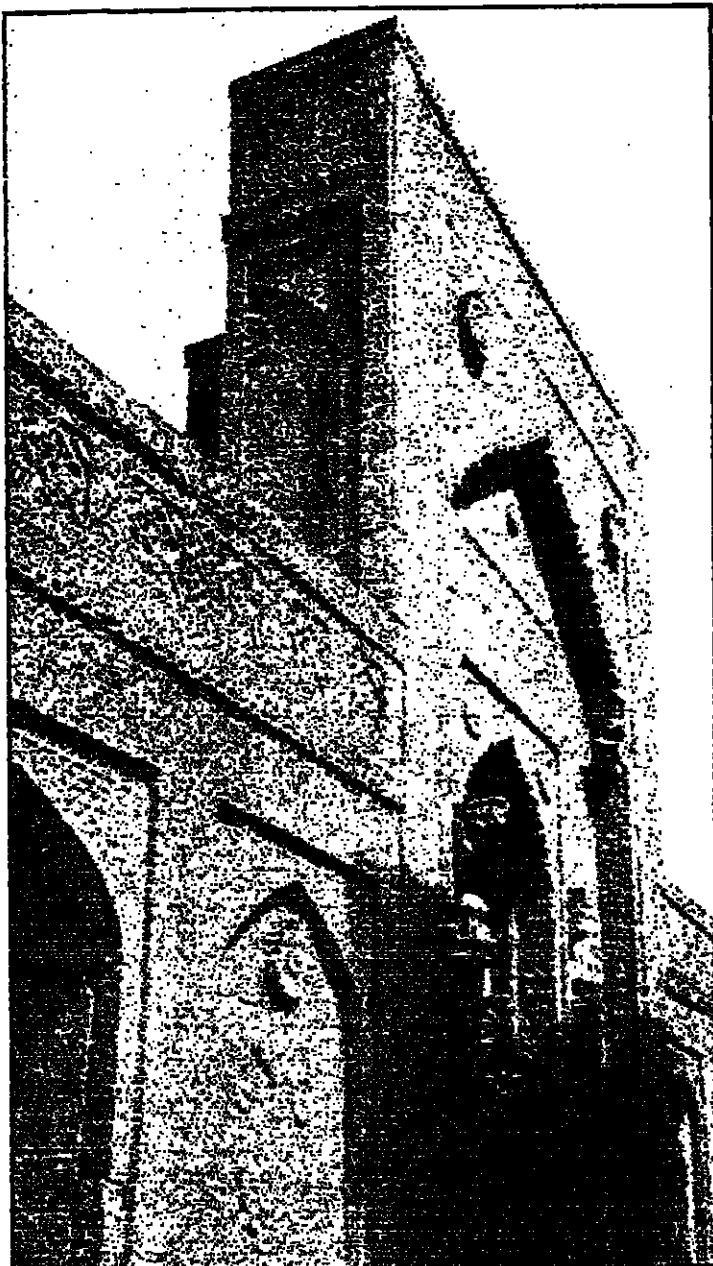
Poverty alleviation is one of the programmes. Above: children in a make-shift street school



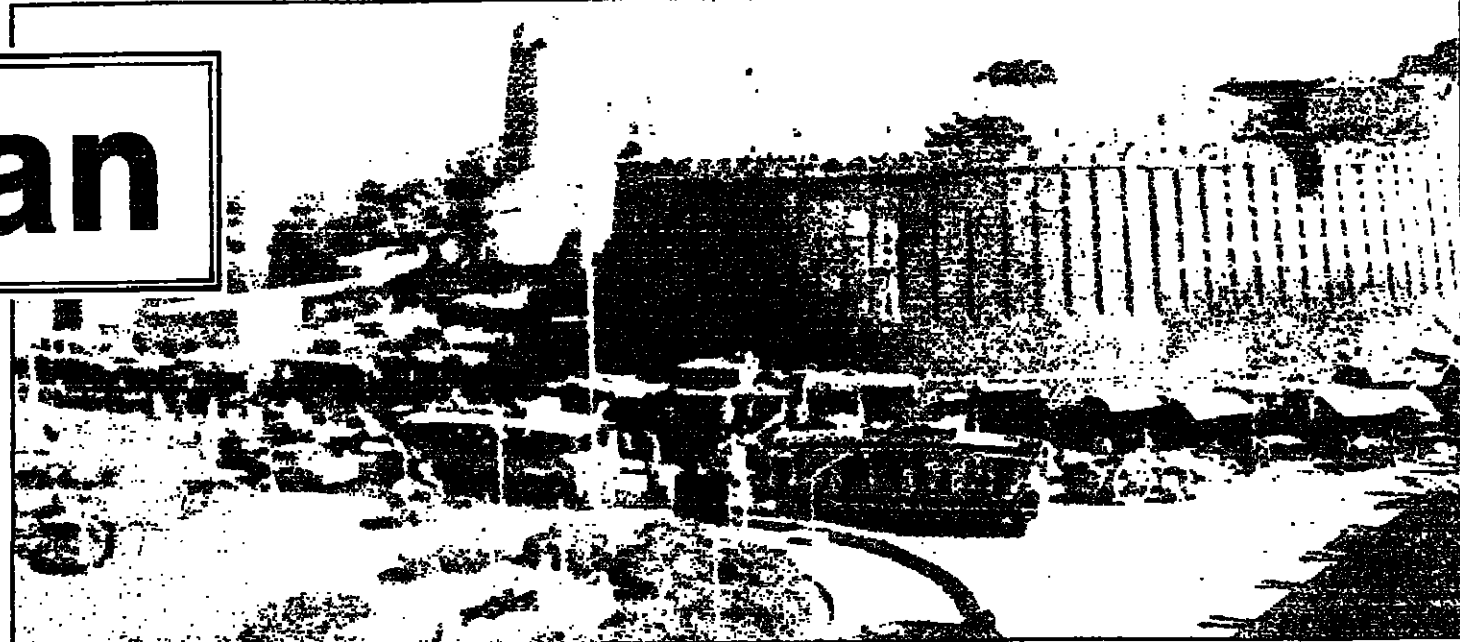
A PIA airhostess.



A view of Tarbela Dam, the largest earth-filled dam in the world.

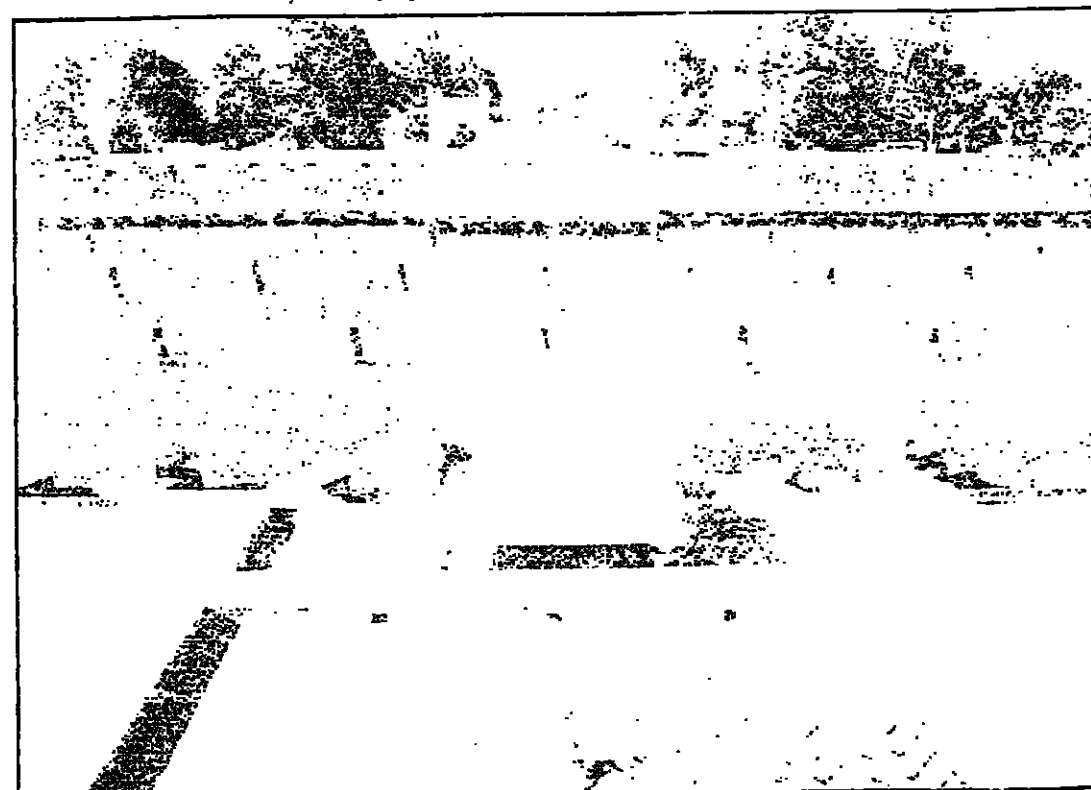


Exquisite stone carvings on the arch of the tomb of Mirza Jani Beg. (17th century)

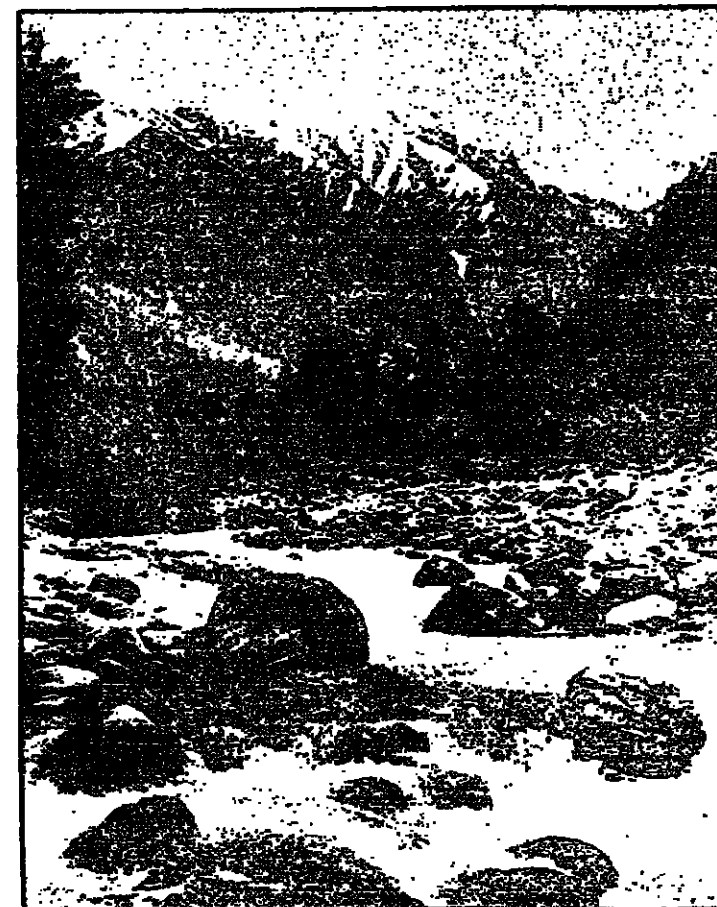


Hyderabad Fort

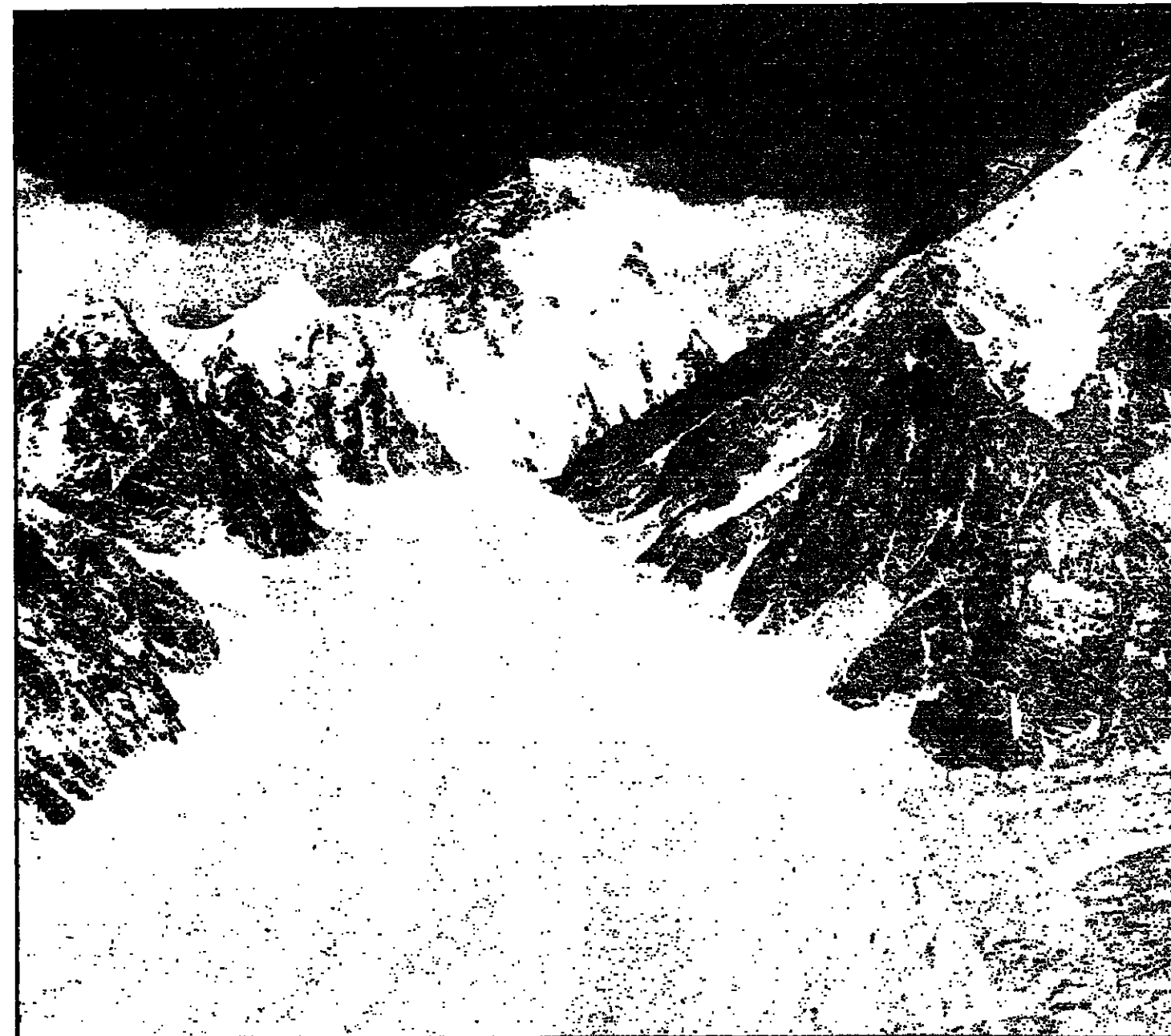
PAKISTAN stands at the crossroads of the world where the cultures of the Middle East and Asia meet and become one. Here ancient history exerts a profound and mellowing influence over the manner in which the technologies and attitudes of the late twentieth century are taken up, interpreted and used. Pakistan is a physically dramatic country and this drama shapes and influences the everyday-life of the people. It conditions their behaviour and colours their outlook on the world around them.



Shalimar Gardens (1052 AH/1642 AD), Lahore, constructed at the command of Emperor Shahjahan primarily as a place of recreation for the royal family is now a place of relaxation for all.



The magnificent Swat Valley with lush-green landscapes and rushing rivers.



Largest valley of glaciers around K-2.



In 1989, Pakistan entered the missile age as three consecutive successes, all in the defence sector, came to the fore. The country successfully fired and tested indigenously manufactured surface-to-surface long range missiles

Entering the missile age

By Azim Kidwai

PAKISTAN in recent years has taken enormous strides in the development of technology. Our scientists have achieved a breakthrough in nuclear technology, a feat which has earned our scientist world-wide acclaim. In addition, missile technology in Pakistan has seen significant advances through the development of three missiles.

Pakistan enters missile age: In 1989 Pakistan entered the missile age, as three consecutive successes, all in the defence sector, came to the fore. On February 5, 1989, came the announcement that "Pakistan has successfully fired and tested indigenously manufactured surface-to-surface long range missiles one having a range of 80 km, and the other 300 km These are extremely accurate systems and carry a load of 500 kg."

And only 10 days after was again front-paged another significant capability: "Pakistan's renowned scientist, Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan, handed over the

first consignment of shoulder-fired surface-to-surface missile (SAM), and laser range finder (LRF) to the chief of army staff

The legendary Dr A. Q. Khan had been able to stage a 'hat-trick'.

Space technology: In the technological field, progress has also been attained in the domain of space. Suparco, the space organisation of the country, has been able to complete the fabrication of a low-orbit, tiny satellite that may be launched in the near future. The effort again is wholly indigenous. Only its launching may have to be done by some outside agency.

Suparco has also developed the capability to manufacture 3-stage rockets that can go up to 500 kilometres in space. Electronic equipment for use in space research is being fabricated by Suparco. Electronic assemblies for flight on-board are tested in a simulated flight environment, such as in vacuum and in low and high temperatures.

Broadcast equipment and transmitters: A good advance in the

field of broadcast equipment has been made in Pakistan; 300 kilowatt high power transmitters are being designed and fabricated locally by the Equipment Production Complex of the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation. It has been producing high power radio transmitters up to 100 kilowatts as well. Broadcast equipment for various broadcasting houses in the country is also being fabricated. The research and development effort has made the country almost self-sufficient in the field of broadcast equipment.

Development in computer technology: Computer is another field in which the country has made headway. Computer-based systems are being increasingly developed in the public and private sectors. Some of the firms have installed telephone exchanges based on indigenous digital technology. Some other firms are installing computer terminals, and global linkup of information is being made possible through indigenous technology and software.

PCSR (Pakistan Council of

Scientific and Industrial Research), a government-supported research complex, has been able to develop many products and processes and through them is helping in industrialisation of the country.

Algin and alginates: In the same organisation processes for isolation of algin and alginates from sea-weeds have been successful. A survey carried out by its scientists showed that some 4,500 tons of sea-weeds can be collected annually from seashore. Algins are used in the production of plastics, artificial fibres, also in other sectors of textile industry.

Laboratory-scale processes have been developed for manufacturing aluminium and zinc sulphides, compounds used in controlling pests and rodent menace.

Solar cells: The National Institute for Silicon Technology has developed solar cells indigenously for various applications, using single crystal silicon for production. Studies on amorphous silicon, that have some potential, are also on. These may lead to inexpensive solar cells.

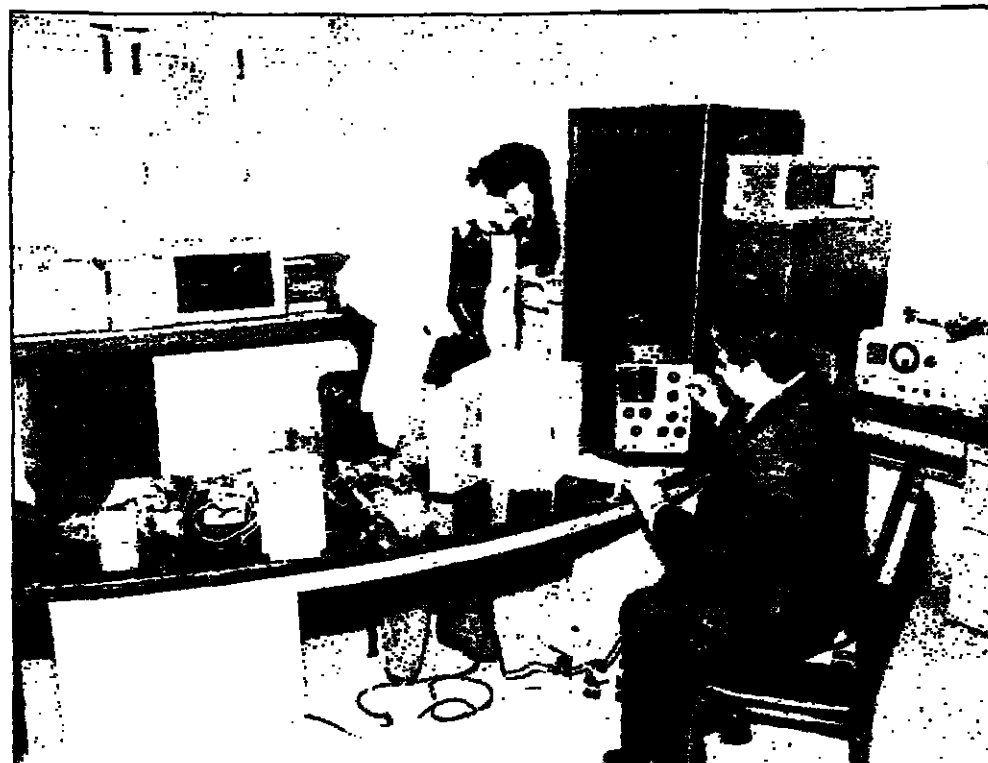
Chemistry of natural products: Scientific researches of high level are conducted at the H.E.J. Institute (Hussain Ebrahim Jamal Institute of Chemistry) of the University of Karachi. H.E.J. is now being rated as one of the six best institutes in the chemistry of natural products in the whole world, and it is the best of its kind in the East, except Japan.

A large number of research papers are published by the institute every year in international journals. The focus is on the chemistry of natural products with an eye on their biological activity and medicinal value.

Protein chemistry is another area that gets special attention at the institute.

Fractions of neem fruit have been found to be very effective pesticides. Some of the fractions have shown anti-bacterial activity.

Anti-cancer compound: An active compound has been discovered that has anti-cancer properties and can be derived from *gust mehdi ke Pool* (*Sphenanthus indicus*).



Atomic Energy Medical Centre, Lahore.

Progress of leather industries

By M. Jamil Khan

WHEN we compare the development and progress of Pakistan leather industry with any other country of the world, we can simply say it is short yet splendid. This industry's progress has won appreciation from all quarters not only in Pakistan but even by foreign countries. In a very short span of time the industry has turned itself from exporters of raw hides and skins into suppliers of finished leather and leather products. This has been possible due to zealous and untiring efforts of young foreign qualified Pakistani leather technologists and the far-sightedness of the ancestors. The entrepreneurs having marketing expertise and incorporating latest managerial techniques helped the rapid modernisation. With the installation of sophisticated leather processing machinery, Pakistan today is not only meeting its entire domestic requirements of leather and leather products but also exporting the surplus to more than 120 countries all over the world. The leather industry is playing a very vital role in earning the foreign exchange and it has emerged as the second largest foreign exchange earner in the manufacturing industry and it ranks third in overall exports in Pakistan.

By and large the leather industry is concentrated in Karachi and Lahore. The reason being availability of skilled and experienced semi-skilled labour and technicians as well as ready and developed markets for hides and skins at all these two places. The other centres where the leather and leather products industries located are at Hyderabad, Multan, Sahiwal, Kasur, Surghoda, Gujranwala, Sheikhupura, Sialkot and Peshawar.

Leather products
The leather industry has made a regular progress in production and export during last decade which is unparalleled in the history of development and progress of leather and leather products industries in any country of the world. It is anticipated that the future growth in leather and leather products industries will surpass all records since Pakistan now is not only using its entire raw material (hides and skins) but also utilising imported raw hides and skins from other foreign countries as well.

The private sector has made an all out effort in the expansion of the leather industry but it is mainly due to government's liberal policy and assistance in allowing import of duty free machinery for leather processing, with the result that today Pakistan is in a position to export large quantities of top quality finished leather and leather products as well as meeting the entire demands of indigenous leather-goods industries.

The export of leather is about 60 per cent of the total exports of leather and leather products but in order to achieve the maximum economic gain Pakistan must progressively put restrictions by way of imposing export duties on the export of leather and increasing the export of value added products such as shoes, gloves, leather jackets and leather goods and ultimately completely stop-

ping and export of leather as such.

Although the production of leather garments made its debut in 70's at a very small scale but due to non-availability of good quality finished leather according to foreign market requirements it did not make any real headway. The first and foremost material needed in garment manufacturing is the availability of good quality finished leather in large quantities from Pakistan but during 1980 with the installation of modern, sophisticated leather finishing machinery, the Pakistan tanning industry started producing finished leather which was acceptable in all foreign markets. Since 1980 however the Pakistan leather garment industry came in a big way.

Estimated leather garment production capacity

Year	Quantity	Value (Pcs)
1983-84	500,000	181,859
1984-85	800,000	342,822
1985-86	1,000,000	721,165
1986-87	1,600,000	1,154,688
1987-88	2,200,000	1,663,308

However Pakistan leather garment industries has shown gradual increase in production and exports during the period 1983-84 to 1987-88 as given under:

Year	Quantity	Value (000) Rupees
1983-84	236,275	181,859
1984-85	498,266	342,822
1985-86	893,940	721,165
1986-87	1,226,927	1,154,688
1987-88	1,606,300	1,663,308

The above figures are indicative of the rate of progress of leather garment industry during the last five years and it had entered in the important markets of the world. But during last two years a downward trend had set in and in 1987-88 only approximately 22 per cent of the installed capacity could be utilised. Although we have now increased the installed production capacity in the country but in fact the actual production has been decreased due to several factors particularly the withdrawal of incentives by the government during last two years we lost the exports markets in favour of our competitors. The recent steps taken by the government and allowing again 20 per cent incentives/rebates on exports would help the industry to recapture the lost markets. It is anticipated that after getting these incentives and improved quality of finished leather in larger quantities would be available, the leather garment manufacture and exports during next five years could reach Rs600 million.

However, if this budding value added industry gets government's blessings and encouragements, this industry can grow rapidly and each and every unit (particularly those who are working as sister concerns of the present well-organised tanneries) would be in a position to produce and export 200-300 pieces in different designs, styles and sizes daily.

The Leather Products Development Centre (LPDC) Karachi in collaboration with CDG of West Germany and Unido had been instrumental in the uplift and development of the Leather Goods Industry particularly at Karachi.

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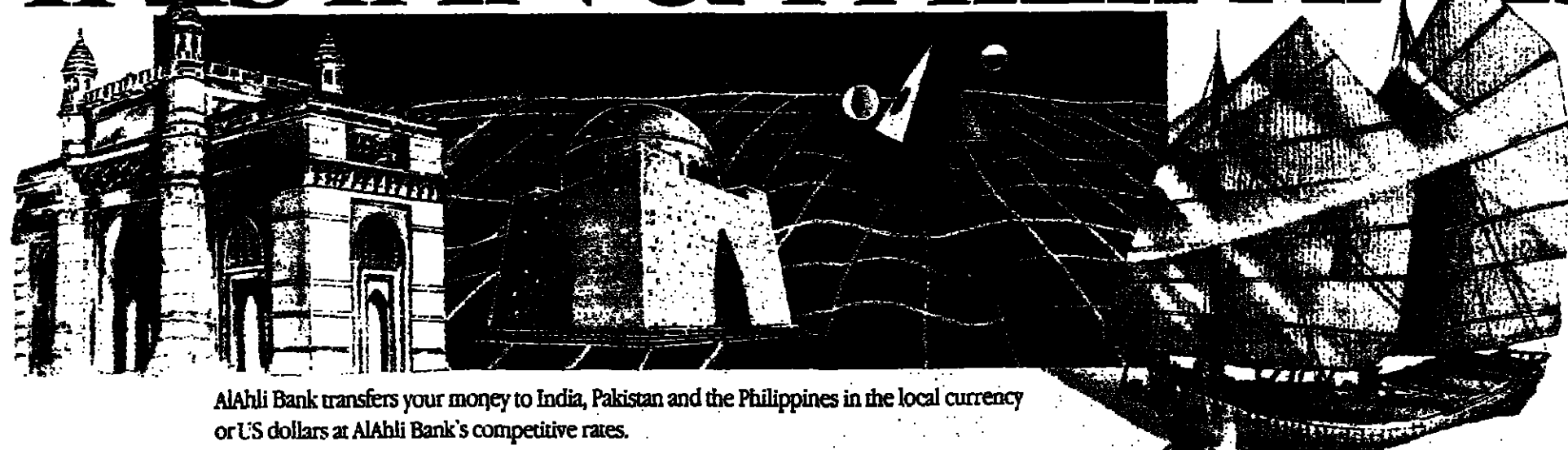
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BA honours Nigel Paige

British Airways on Tuesday hosted a reception in honour of their regional director Nigel Paige, who was in Kuwait on a brief visit. A large number of travel agents and airline officials attended.

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL

"Bengali drama" Nattya Chakra, a Bengali drama group, is going to perform its third stage show, a Bengali drama, "Boudir Beey" on Thursday, March 22 at 5 pm in the Starlight Theatre hall at Doha Entertainment City, Kuwait.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh in Kuwait Mr. K. M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest.

For entry cards, please contact the following persons: Abdur Rab, Tel. 4316823; Jasim Uddin, Tel. 2420484; Mubashir Hossain, Tel. 4849100; Ext. 104 and Video A. 1022 Tel. 3924320.

Sri Lanka Bazaar A BAZAAR will be held at the Sri Lanka embassy premises on Friday, March 23, 1990 from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, organised by the Sri Lanka Seva Vanitha unit, Kuwait. Address: Kefan, Al Andalus Street, Block No. 6, House No. 31. Tel. Nos. 4844862/4844854. All are welcome.

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.30 am
Zuhr 11.55
Asr 3.23 pm
Maghreb 6.01
Isha 7.17

FRIDAY
Fajr 4.29 am
Zuhr 11.55
Asr 3.23 pm
Maghreb 6.01
Isha 7.18

Al Andalus Arabic film
Al Sahiyah Hall booked
Al Hama Jungle Assault
Drive-in North Shore
Al Firdous Na Insaafi
Fahad Open Kanoon Apna Apna
Fahad Nokul Shehzada
Al Jahra Arabic film
Granada Mob War
Salaikhah Adharvam
Jeeb Nigahen
Ahmadi Drive-in Arabic film

FRIDAY
Al Andalus Arabic film
Al Sahiyah Hall booked
Al Hama Jungle Assault
Drive-in North Shore
Al Firdous Na Insaafi
Fahad Open Kanoon Apna Apna
Fahad Nokul Shehzada
Al Jahra Arabic film
Midnight Run Granada
Hell on the Battle Ground
Salaikhah Rolling Vengeance
Jeeb Shaqne
Ahmadi Drive-in Arabic film

Private Lives

THE leading British theatrical group, Cafe Theatre, is staging Noel Coward's comedy, Private Lives, at the Kuwait International Hotel on March 22 and 23. The play radiates warmth, vigour, fun and humour and Noel Coward's sparkling dialogue keeps the audience laughing all the way through. Tickets at: 2530000 Ext. 4010. The group also wishes to visit organisations for lectures and theatre workshops free of charge. Can be organised through the Public Relations Dept. of the Kuwait International.

Guardian Angel Club The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorecho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Remmie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancito Vaz, Ophelia H. Britton and Sebbi Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Flag hoisting FLAG hoisting ceremony on account of National Day of Pakistan will be held at 9.00 am on Friday 23rd March at the Chancery premises.

All Pakistanis are cordially invited.

Pakistan Arts Circle Musical Nite

PAKISTAN Arts Circle veterans are organising a "Musical Nite" on Thursday night at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. The variety programme includes songs, comedy and a show of Pakistan's national costumes. Entry will be by invitation only. The organising committee of the programme includes Abdus Sattar Ghazali, Zulfiqar Ahmad and Zahid Butt.

Badesik Picnic Bangladesh Diploma Engineers' Society in Kuwait (Badesik) has organised its annual picnic to be held in Mangal family beach on March 23. The events included the prize distribution of recently completed indoor games and the children sports to be played on the spot. Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait K.M. Shehabuddin will be the chief guest.

All Badesik member's are requested to contact general secretary Khatir Rahman on tel. 4330025 for more details.

Turkish society picnic TURKISH society invites all Turkish citizens to a picnic at Mangal family beach (by the pool side) on March 23, 1990 (9 am to 4 pm) contact 4845682.

German-speaking Cultural Association

THE forthcoming annual election will take place on Monday, March 26, 1990, 8 pm, at Kuwait International Hotel, Ahmad Room. All ladies and gentlemen of the German-speaking community are requested to attend.

Ministry of Education

Kuwait Entertainment City will be eliminating the entry fee to the city for all Education Ministry employees on Friday, March 23rd. Each employee can accompany up to 10 persons free. The city will also host Kuwait's football player, Mohamad Ibrahim as a guest of honour.

Holi — Festival of Colours

THE IAC is celebrating the festival of colours to commemorate the coming of Spring on Thurs 22nd March at Fun-aitees with a suitable programme. Members and their guests are requested to contact the IAC office (3904817), Sharma (2644863), Raman (3903879), Mathews (4343329), Srivastava (4898162) or Munshi (2423740) for details and passes. Because of limitations, passes are available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Flag hoisting

A FLAG-HOISTING ceremony will be held at the Bangladesh embassy, Khaldiya, on Monday, March 26, at 9.00 am on the occasion of the Bangladesh Independence and National Day. The Bangladesh Ambassador, K.M. Shehabuddin will raise the flag. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited.

Ladies International League

LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. Vendors' first meeting at Regency palace in Nabila Room from 5 pm to 7 pm on March 26. All inquiries contact Ceilia on 3434946 or Barbara on 5325131.

There will be a coffee morning for newcomers to LIL and Kuwait on Sunday, March 25, at the Sheraton Hotel in the Green Room from 10 am to 12 noon. All are welcome. For more info telephone Ann on 5316905.

Sylhet Community gathering Sylhet well wishers community gathering at Lord's Restaurant, Fahad at 7.30 pm March 24. For further details please contact 3625889 or 3917502.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoon Serial
9.45 Sabah Al Kher, Programmes
10.00 Magazine D'actualite (repetition)
10.15 Sabah Al Kher, Programmes
10.30 Rejal Fi Al Masyada: Arabic serial (part 8) starring Mohammed Awadh, Younis Shalabi, Sabar Rami and Fuad Khaleel
11.30 The Open University: Cultural programme
12.00 Sabah Al Kher, Programmes
12.15 Hewar Wa Nagham: local variety programme, prepared by Khaled Bu Hemaad and presented by Nervana Idrees
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.30 Min Ghair Kalam: Arabic variety programme, presented by actor Hassan Mustafa
2.15 Discovery: cultural programme
3.00 Varieties
3.30 Liq Al Khamees: variety programme, prepared by Jameel Homoud and presented by Ameena Al Sharaa
5.00 Sabah Al Fadh: cartoon serial
5.30 Cartoons
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Wa Qalat Al Arab: historical serial
7.00 Maa Al Talaba: local programme, prepared by the Ministry of Education Schools Activities Department
8.00 Kull Al Foonon: local programme, presented by Rasha Majdi
8.30 Maa Al Islam: religious programme, prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mazkoor
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Lil Adala Wajh Akhar: Arabic serial (part 9)
11.00 Ehna Illi Saraqna Al Haramiya: Arabic feature film, starring Mohammed Subhi, Sabreen, Khaled Zaki, Olla Rami, and Hussain Al Shar
12.30 Thursday night special feature
1.30 News Summary

1.35 The World Today via Satellite
1.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

FRIDAY

9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoons
9.45 Varieties
10.15 Magazine D'actualite (repetition)
10.30 Children Magazine: local children programme
11.00 Al Ahadeetha Al Mawdoos: religious programme
11.15 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday prayers and speech
12.25 Alwan: local variety programme, prepared by Mohammed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab
1.00 News Summary
1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
1.20 Al Ahadeetha Al Deeni: religious programme
2.00 The Friday Break: local variety programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader and presented by Dawlat Shawaqi and Ali Hassan
3.45 Al Hob We Sneoos: Arabic serial
4.45 Cartoon serial
5.15 Cartoons
5.30 Varieties
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Television weekly programmes preview
6.30 Kuwait In A Week: local programme
7.00 The Living Planet: cultural programme
8.00 The Family Programme
8.45 Hadeetha Al Osboo: religious programme
9.00 News In Arabic
9.45 Wrestling
10.30 Local variety late night show
11.45 News Summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 The Smurfs: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magic acts and illusions... training children on how to use or deal with information...

7.00 Wild America. Multitudes of... A look at snails... their shells and mucous material used as snails for protector

7.30 Identity. Live the Guy a chance

8.00 News in English
8.30 Murder. She Wrote. "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall". An editor-in-chief informs Eudora, a crime story journalist, that her stories are not as good as Jessica's.

9.30 The Cosby Show. Cosby's daughter returns from her trip to Africa with unexpected surprise.

10.00 Let's Be Alright on the Night.

10.30 Feature Movie. "The Killing Floor" Starring: Damian Lake, Alfred Woodward.

12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons. A variety of cartoon for children.

6.30 "The Bare Foot Executive" Starring: Kurt Russell, Harry Morgan, Joe Flynn.

8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away. Recreational and entertainment activities carried out in various parts in Kuwait.

8.45 Rescue 911. The rescue team carries out a number of rescue operations where victims are saved in due time.

9.30 The Weekend Programme. A weekly local programme on variety of topics and local activities and events.

10.00 Rosanne. "Guilt of Disassociation". Stryker is charged to escort an American woman married to a king whose yacht is mined up...

10.30 The Mystery Wheel. "Carolann". Stryker is charged to escort an American woman married to a king whose yacht is mined up...

12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

Kuwait
Al Sharqiya Pharmacy
Al Hilal Street
Al Omar Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabere Street
Hawalli & Nagra
Al Qattan Pharmacy

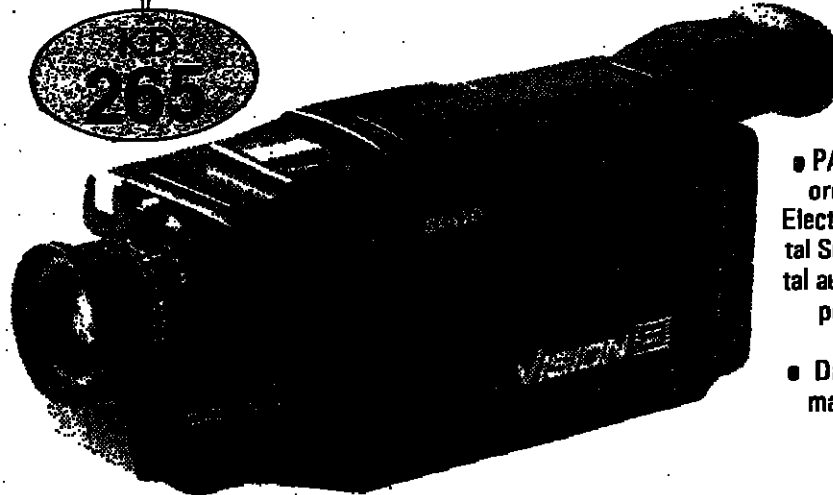
Al Othman Street
Salimiya and Rumaithi
Randa Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak Street
Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Fahad Pharmacy
Fahad

Farwaniya
Al Mhajer Pharmacy
Farwaniya
Jshra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opp. Jahra Co-operative Society



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• PAL System 8mm camcorder with 1/2000th sec. Electronic Shutter and Digital Auto Focus • Z-speed motor • Auto white balance • Auto Voltage Selector or battery operation • Forward & reverse picture search



VM-D5P

• PAL-System 8mm Camcorder with 1/4000th sec. Electronic Shutter and Digital Superimposition • Digital auto focus and iris • 6X power zoom with macro • Auto white balance • Date imprinting • Automatic Voltage Selector or battery operation

The choice is yours for these gifts:

1 M7024K Stereo Radio/Cassette Recorder 18W (P.M.P.O.)
• FM Stereo/MW/SW1/SW2 Radio • Auto stop
• One-touch recording • soft eject

2 OR 6 Video 8mm Tapes Model P5-60

3 OR FT-400H High-power Radio/Cassette Car stereo 40W output power (max) • Auto stop at end of tape • Locking fast forward button • separate rotary Tone and balance controls.

Buy Sanyo video camera model VM-D5P and get a free gift of your choice.



The choice is yours for these gifts:

1 MW717K Stereo Radio Cassette Recorders 14W PMPO
• FM Stereo/MW/SW1/SW2 • High-speed & synchronized dubbing
• 3-Band graphic equalizer • One touch recording

2 OR 9 Video 8mm Tapes Model P5-60

3 OR SJ3000MB All-in-one Juicer/Blender quick preparation of sherbets, Italian ices, purees and juices • Automatic pulp ejector.

سانيو SANYO

General Agent: SUPPLYING STORE CO. W.L.L.

Showrooms: Abdulla Salem St. 2423421, Fahd Al Salem St. Tel: 2428849
Al Muthanna Electronic Center Tel: 2435342, Samiya Tel: 5716085, Fahad Tel: 3922721

BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake

OH, HONEY, STOP WORRYING AND GO TO SLEEP

SURE THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY

AND EASY FOR HIM TO DO

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne

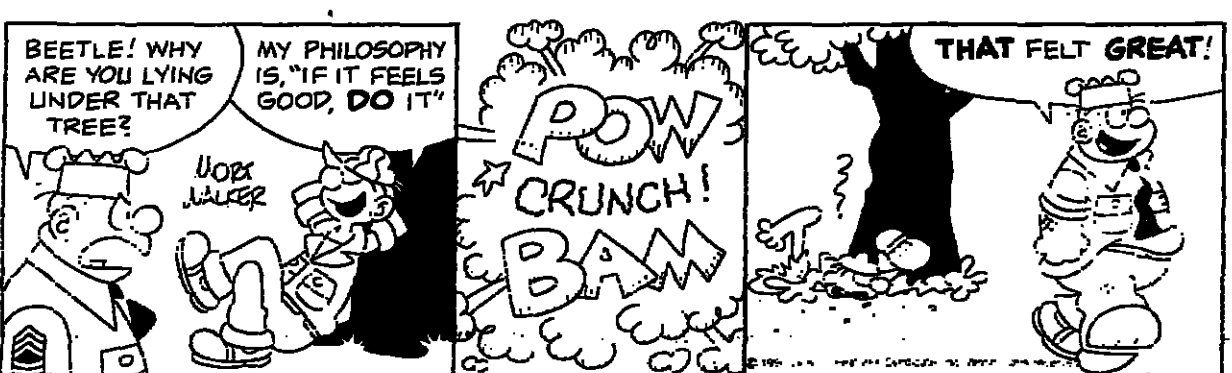
WHAT'S HER NAME?

"TINY"

ASK A SILLY QUESTION...

AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest

...IS TO CONSIDER THE JANITOR'S REQUEST FOR A RAISE.

BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker

MY PHILOSOPHY IS, 'IF IT FEELS GOOD, DO IT'

POW CRUNCH! BAM

THAT FELT GREAT!

THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

WHAT KIND OF CEREAL IS THIS?

HIGH FIBER

WHERE DID YOU GET IT?

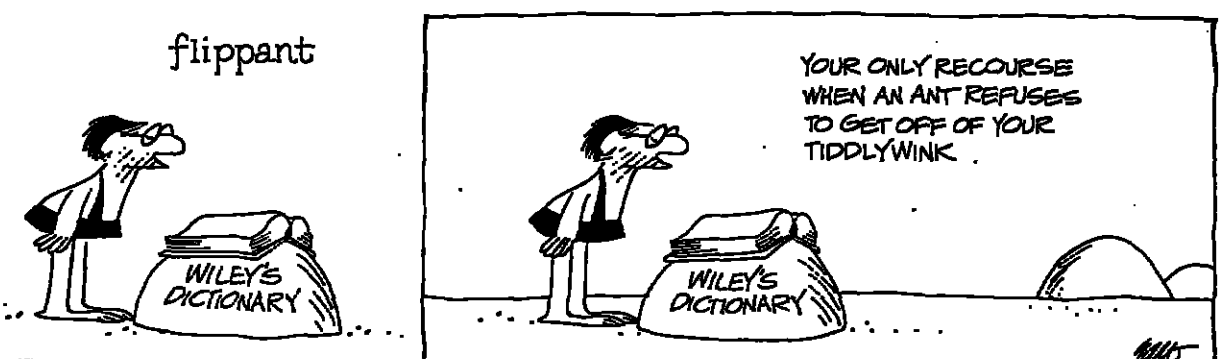
THE SAWMILL

ANDY CAPP

I AM, JACK

IT'S A BIT OF A JOB, I HAVE TO LEAVE MYSELF OUT - SWOLLEN ANKLE...

THE TROUBLE ABOUT FINDING A SUBSTITUTE IS THAT NO OTHER BLOCKS SEEM TO MEASURE UP TO YOURSELF

B.C. — By Johnny Hart

YOUR ONLY RECOURSE WHEN AN ANT REFUSES TO GET OFF OF YOUR TIDDLYWINK

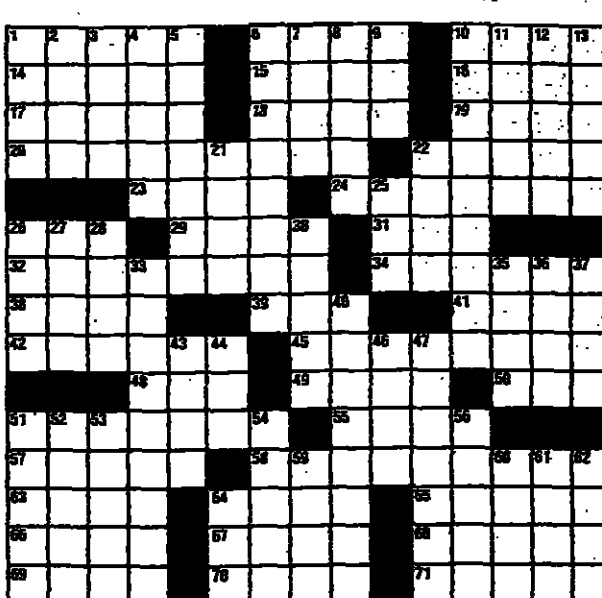
HE-MAN — By G. Foran & J. Shull

KEEP MOVING, WE'VE GOT TO LIVE IN THE NEWLY DISCOVERED TOMB OF KARTAN

DON'T LET GO, CHAMP... I CAN'T SEE EITHER!

SURE! YOU'RE FORGETTING THESE ROCKS HAVE EARS

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CAVERN! AH, WHIPLASH! LISTEN TO THAT SWEET SOUND, THE PITTER PATT OF FEET, WHO THINK THEY CAN ESCAPE SKELETOR'S WRATH!

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Philippine island
 - Horse of different colors
 - Rugged rock
 - Heroine of a Broadway show
 - North Sea feeder
 - Side dish
 - Henpecks
 - Fragrant blooms
 - Confess
 - Space
 - Papal court
 - Back and Kite's org.
 - Airport
 - ABA member
 - Aromatic tree
 - Battled
 - Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize: 1984
 - All — up (excited)
 - Windway
 - Mounted "The Tempest"
 - Stature
 - Confusion
 - Window part
 - Franklin
 - Paperback, sometimes
 - Kirghiz range
 - Toss out
 - Melons
 - Man of the house
 - Wimbledon star
 - Eldritch
 - Paradise
 - Spoken
 - Inspire
- DOWN**
- majesty
 - Country singer
 - Glossy
 - Stitches
 - Profess
 - Bag down
 - Confused
 - Dead end for some
 - Investigate
 - Pot for a spicy stew
 - Embarrass
 - Novel
 - Early bloomer
 - Goes astray
 - Address
 - Dickinson
 - "Beau —"
 - Wren novel
 - First opera's composer
 - Jacopo —
 - Countertenor
 - Clothoppper
 - Bits of butter
 - Surfeit
 - Canadian prov.
 - Oozes
 - Tropical grass
 - Flippant
 - Titanic
 - Youngster
 - Percussion instrument
 - Work on copy
 - TV's
 - Johnson
 - Mademoiselle
 - Giant
 - Killers
 - Push away
 - Escape
 - Bulldogs, for example
 - Fricke
 - Perfect
 - City
 - In NW
 - Algeria
 - Great Lakes
 - port
 - Sagacious
 - Request
 - Scarf

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 6 ♠ AQ5 ♦ 8763 ♣ 85432
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 NT Pass 5 ♠ ?
What action do you take?
A.—Almost certainly, the opponents will play in spades, so here's your chance to direct a lead with virtually no risk at all. Double. If nothing else, you will warn partner off a possibly fatal lead away from an honor in one of the minors.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 832 ♥ K10 ♦ AQ92 ♣ A954
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♠ Dbl Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—At duplicate, we would bid three no trump—our club spots are not good enough for us to think we can beat them enough to compensate for our vulnerable game. At rubber bridge, we would pass and take the penalty. After all, you're still a three-to-one favorite to win the rubber.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AJ7 ♥ Q109 ♦ 643 ♣ 8762
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♦ ?
What action do you take?
A.—You don't have much, but you do have excellent spade support and clearly want partner to lead the suit if West declares. Bid two spades. The modern tendency is to react to partner's overall as if he had opened the bidding in that suit.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 10963 ♥ K7 ♦ AK6 ♣ Q95
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—Normally, we don't approve of suppressing a major suit when responding to an opening bid. But when partner opens in a five-card heart suit, chances of his having four spades on the side are greatly reduced. In addition, your suit is poor that we would bypass it in favor of jumping to two no trump—upgrading our king of hearts and intermediates surely upgrades the hand by at least one point.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ AJ3 ♥ AK ♦ AQ83 ♣ AKQ
What is your opening bid?
A.—The textbook opening bid with a balanced 25-27 points is three no trump. If you use three no trump for some other purpose, open two clubs and bid three no trump at your next turn.

Q.6—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ AJ94 ♥ Q109 ♦ KQ1087653 ♣ A
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 1 NT ?
What action do you take?
A.—Since you have no interest in defending against a heart contract, don't even consider a double. An since no diamond bid would be forcing, forget about that suit. With such a distributional hand, you are not going to be able to find out if you want to know about partner's hand, so we suggest you make your mind whether to bid four spades or six spades and go ahead and do it.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

GIVE SITIARE NOIRION
ONE AIRRET ENGLIA
ONTOP OF THE WORLD
MID AILS SITE
DRUID PICK SEED
RENT HALLS EDS
OED NESS SLUMPS
OVEREAT BALLOON
PERIOD ARNE USE
FAN BLED EITTE
FOUL TACT OTTER
AWIN BOTH SMA
UNDER THE WEATHER
NEEDY EMEER ORE
ARDEN DYERS TAP

**YOUR STARS**

Aries
March 21 - April 20

Your attention will wander, try to stop it. Something going wrong will cease to do so for no particular reason. Nothing is quite as you would wish it to be. Be observant.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

Put yourself first without being too selfish. Do not delay what you do not like doing but know has to be done sooner or later. Take good care of your health. Be more forgiving.



Libra
Sept 21 - Oct 22

Do not do anything that would annoy your partner. Take a little more exercise and ensure you get enough rest. Do not rely on others to do for you what you know has to be done. Be polite.



Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19

Something you never expected will now happen. It will, however, be better than you had feared. Your lucky numbers are 17 and 36. You are liable to offend a friend, and must not be too proud to apologize. Be considerate.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You will at long last realize what you have been doing wrong. This realization will also enable you to take corrective action. There is room for just a little more optimism. Be frank.



Leo
July 21 - Aug 21

Do not try to wreak vengeance — you will prevail even if you do not do so. Avoid living too much in the past, the present and future is what counts. Take enough exercise. Be considerate.



Scorpio
Oct 21 - Nov 21

Pay more attention to a personal matter without neglecting work. Avoid drinking to excess and do not eat too many sweet things either. Boastfulness is to be avoided. Be reliable.



Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 19

You will tend to be angry with yourself about some mishap. Better to curb yourself and concentrate on preventing a recurrence. Keep your wits very much about you and show a little more commonsense. Be punctual.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You are liable to take rather too much for granted. Something that you have doubted will now prove to have been right. You will also know what is the right solution to the problem concerned. Be tactful.



Virgo
Aug 21 - Sept 22

You are liable to get your sums wrong, so check your calculations carefully. Something you have been meaning to do should be done without further delay. Do not allow your time to be taken up with secondary matters. Be fair.



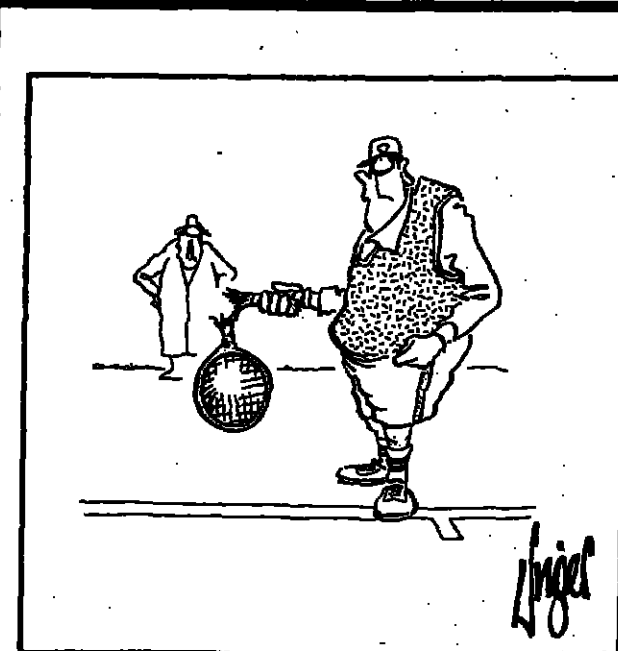
Sagittarius
Nov 21 - Dec 20

If you try too much intrigue and subterfuge you will lose out in the end, so don't. You should not be in too much of a hurry to make up your mind, but do not dither either. Have more faith in yourself. Be loyal.



Pisces
Feb 19 - March 20

Do not allow yourself to get into bad debt. You will be able to correct a mistake but you must be on the lookout for it. You should take care to avoid misunderstanding. Be generous.



"Wait 'til you see his backhand."



"Your scalp's very dry."

LAUGOLITA

